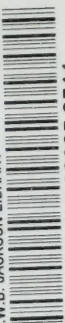


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MAIN ENTRANCE.

HISTORY  
OF  
FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL  
COLLEGE

FRANKLIN COLLEGE, 1787-1853  
MARSHALL COLLEGE, 1836-1853  
FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE  
1853-1903

BY  
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in Franklin and Marshall College*

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## PRELIMINARY.

In response to a request of the Alumni Association of Franklin and Marshall College the author has prepared the following pages. It seems strange that this work was not done many years ago, when the necessary material might have been more easily collected. Now that the historic *renaissance* has come upon us it is frequently intimated by the friends of the institution that the time for such a publication has fully come and that there must be no further delay.

The preparation of this volume was directly suggested by the approaching Semi-centennial Celebration of the union of two colleges and of the consequent organization of Franklin and Marshall College, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. For telling the story of the development of the educational movement which these institutions have represented this festival was regarded as a peculiarly auspicious occasion, and it was speedily determined that some one must write a book. Knowing that the task was accompanied by peculiar difficulties the present writer would have been well pleased if it had been assigned to another; but he was at last persuaded that he could not honorably decline an invitation which had been most courteously extended.

In the earliest instructions of the Committee of Publication the author was reminded that he was expected to limit his studies to the history of the College, introducing that of the Theological Seminary at certain periods only,

when the two institutions were so closely connected that it might be difficult to gain a proper idea of the development of one without becoming familiar with conditions that prevailed in the other. To follow these instructions was sometimes difficult, and the author must crave indulgence for occasionally trespassing on a field that has been reserved for another. It should, however, be understood that he has not attempted to write the history of the Theological Seminary, except during certain periods and in an external and formal way, and that a careful and critical study of the life and doctrine of that institution remains a desideratum.

The composition of this volume has demanded more research than was at first anticipated. Portions of the early history of Franklin College are very obscure and consequently require renewed study of original sources. It has, for instance, been generally supposed that the celebrated astronomer, Daniel Kirkwood, was in his youth an instructor in the Lancaster County Academy; but it now seems plain that he was not connected with that institution, but must be regarded as one of the earliest principals of the Lancaster City High School.

Marshall College is, of course, better known, but of the men who were partakers of its peculiar life there are very few survivors. Hitherto it has been usual to contemplate this period from a purely theological standpoint, in close connection with the development of "Mercersburg Theology"; but the author has ventured to tell the story as he heard it from the lips of older men, and to introduce incidents and anecdotes which belong peculiarly to Marshall College and may perhaps be appreciated by a younger generation of students.

In writing the history of Franklin and Marshall College during the past half century the chief difficulty has been that of selection. Material is abundant, but in some instances there may be an honest difference of opinion with regard to the sequence of events. To have told the story in all its breadth and fulness would have extended the work beyond its proper limits, and omissions were therefore unavoidable. That we have been unable to give a full account of the special work of many faithful laborers is greatly to be regretted; but we may perhaps be permitted to call attention to the fact that additional information is given in the "Catalogue of Officers and Students" which is issued in connection with the present festival.

The author is under many obligations to the members of the Committee of Publication for aid in the prosecution of this work. They have superintended the publication, selected the illustrations, assisted in reading proof and furnished many valuable suggestions, besides attending to other details which are ordinarily burdensome to the author. Other friends have kindly responded to requests for aid and information. To Mr. D. McN. Stauffer, of New York, we are greatly indebted for reproducing the portrait of Dr. Frederick A. Rauch from a posthumous sketch and for drawing the seals of the institutions. The Pennsylvania-German Society also has our thanks for the use of several interesting illustrations. Though we have throughout the volume given credit to our coadjutors, it affords us pleasure to repeat that we are under special obligations to the Rev. Professor William J. Hinke, the Rev. Dr. James I. Good, Dr. J. A.



Melsheimer, Dr. W. M. Green, Messrs. George Steinman, Daniel H. Heitshu, L. Nevin Wilson and many others.

The preparation of this volume has given pleasure to the author, though it demanded earnest and unremitting labor. He is aware of its imperfections, and can only say that under somewhat unfavorable conditions he has tried to do his best.

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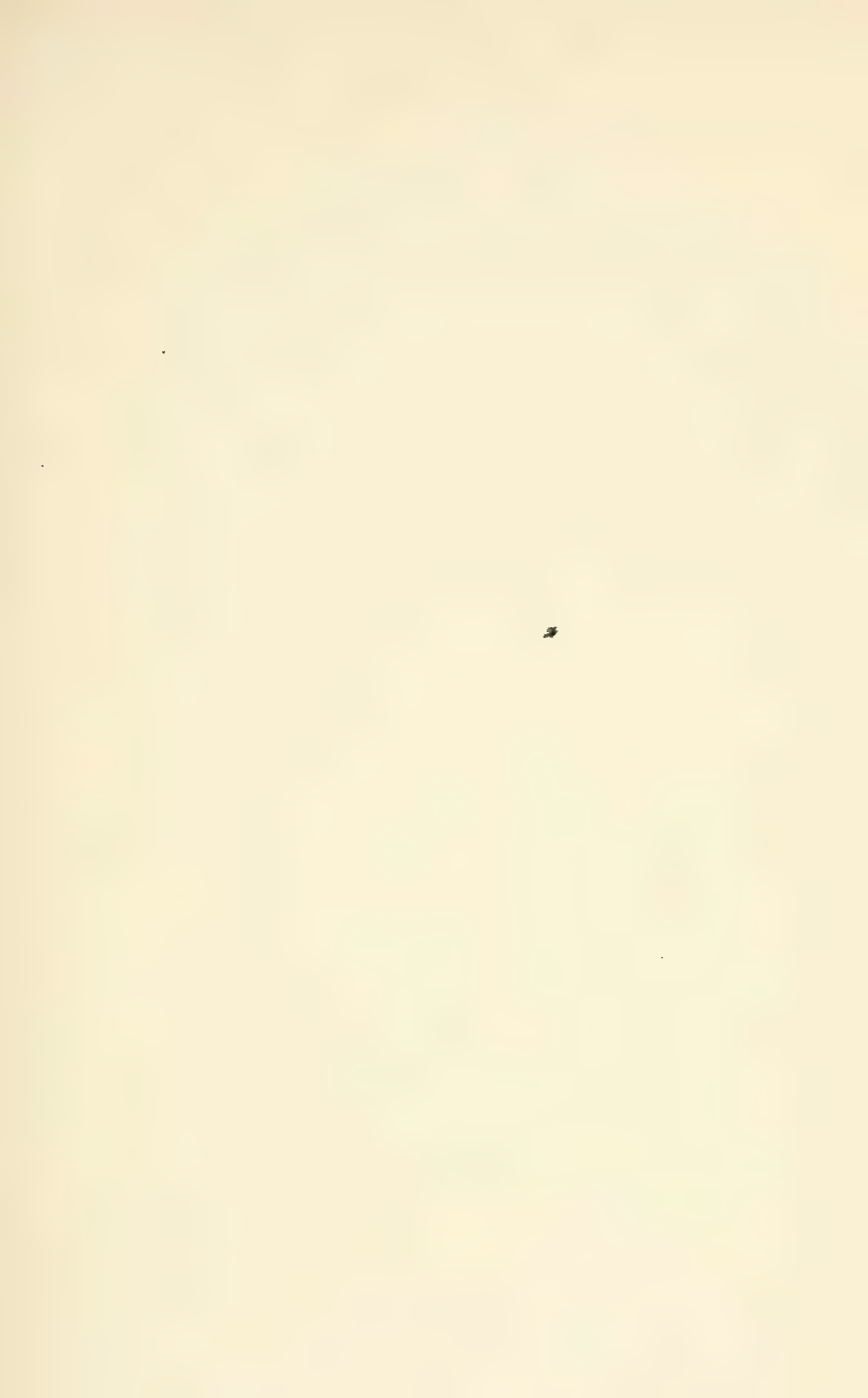


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Benj. Franklin

FRANKLIN COLLEGE.





## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTORY.

EARLY CONDITIONS — SCHLATTER AND MUHLENBERG — CHARITY  
SCHOOLS — J. DANIEL GROS — KUNZE AND HELMUTH —  
GERMAN DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA.

The year 1787, in which Franklin College was founded, is memorable in American history. The weak Confederation of States had served its purpose, and eminent statesmen were engaged in framing a national constitution. Many of the heroes of the Revolution were still living, and these joined with a younger generation in the earnest hope that the time for the establishment of an American nation had come at last. It seemed to be an auspicious year for the revival of purposes which on account of the disturbed condition of the country had long been deferred.

Among the plans which had been entertained at an earlier period was one for the founding of an institution of advanced grade in the special interest of the German people of Pennsylvania. That such an institution was desirable had always been freely acknowledged. The early German settlers had been as well educated as those of other nationalities; but their children lacked the advantages which their parents had enjoyed in the fatherland and were growing up destitute of culture. Congregational schools had been established by the founders of the principal Reformed and Lutheran churches, but the instruction imparted in them was lamentably insufficient.

The pastors were agreed in regarding the establishment of schools as a question of paramount importance. Michael

Schlatter—the founder of the Reformed synod—said in his “Appeal,” in 1751: “If there are no schools, provided with qualified schoolmasters, of whom there are here almost none, or very few, will not the children who are not instructed in reading and writing, in two or three generations become like the pagan aborigines, so that neither book nor writing will be found among them? Yea, if the children are not instructed in the principles of divine worship, according to their capacity, will not their external devotional exercises, if any shall yet remain among them, degenerate into superstition, and will they not in time, corrupted into an entire neglect of God’s service, in this respect also become like the blind heathen among whom they dwell?”<sup>1</sup>

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, “the patriarch of the Lutheran church,” wrote in 1753: “In our country districts schools and teaching are still miserable, because capable and worthy teachers are scarce, and salaries are utterly inadequate; the members of the churches live far apart, and most of them are poor; in winter the roads are too bad, and in summer the children are put to work.”<sup>2</sup>

*Mich. Schlatter —  
Ecce qd Christo colligitur Philadelphia  
in America Septor.*

Michael Schlatter twice visited Europe, in 1751 and 1754, in behalf of the religious and educational interests of the Germans of Pennsylvania. His appeals were not

<sup>1</sup> Harbaugh's *Life of Schlatter*, p. 218.

<sup>2</sup> *Hallesche Nachrichten*, new edition, II., p. 431.

without effect, and besides the large contributions secured in Holland for the Reformed churches of Pennsylvania, a fund was gathered by the Rev. David Thomson in England and Scotland for the establishment of schools among the Germans in America. Unfortunately, in collecting this sum the Germans were greatly misrepresented. No notice was taken of the fact that they had founded many parochial schools, and that they had been peculiarly active in literary publication; but on the contrary it was declared that they were fast becoming "like unto wood-born savages"; and Archbishop Hering even intimated that unless they were speedily anglicized, the Germans might make common cause with the French and drive the English out of America. Naturally the Germans were displeased when they heard of these things, and the Charity Schools were unpopular from the beginning.

Schlatter was chosen Superintendent of Schools and labored with all his might for their success. He was recognized and supported by the government,<sup>1</sup> and the Reformed and Lutheran ministers aided him in every possible way. He succeeded in establishing about a dozen schools,<sup>2</sup> but popular prejudice against the British charity became so violent that in 1757 he was compelled to resign his office. We believe, however, that in several instances the schools continued to live on, even after the British stipend had ceased, and became important educational centers.

<sup>1</sup> *Hallesche Nachrichten*, II., p. 192, new edition.

<sup>2</sup> The schools which from various sources we have been able to identify were situated at the following places: Lancaster, York, Reading, Trappe, Upper Dublin, Northampton (Bucks County), Falkner Swamp, Skippack, Goshenhoppen, Vincent (Chester County), Tulpehocken and Easton.



It was evident from the beginning that the establishment of public schools could not fully meet the educational requirements of the community. Nearly all the ministers of the Reformed and Lutheran churches had been educated in Europe; but it could hardly be expected that the church in Europe would continue to send ministers after the pioneers had passed away. What was to become of the churches without educated ministers? The question was constantly in the minds of the pastors and was frequently uttered at the meetings of the synods. In their correspond-



SEAL OF THE CETUS.

ence with the fatherland the Reformed ministers frequently appealed for aid in establishing a gymnasium, but there was no favorable response. "The fathers" in Holland were liberal in everything that directly concerned the churches, but absolutely declined to engage in the work of higher education in America. They held that if any American desired to enter the ministry he ought first to visit Europe to be educated and ordained. As this was practically out of the question there were few Pennsylvania-German boys who received a liberal education.

As early as 1767 the Rev. John Leydt appeared before the German Cœtus as a delegate from "the Cœtus of New Jersey and New York" to solicit aid for a high-school to be established in New Jersey. In its action on the subject the German Cœtus says: "We will assist in establishing the high-school, having appreciated its necessity. It would be much better to prepare ministers in this country than to put the fathers to the expense of paying their passage from Germany."

In 1784 the Rev. Dr. J. Daniel Gros, pastor of the German Reformed church of the city of New York, became a professor in Columbia College, and while he occupied this position trained several young men for the Reformed ministry. Among these were Philip Milledoler and William Hendel, Jr., who became eminent in their chosen profession.

In their letter to Holland, in 1785, the Reformed ministers once more appealed for aid in the establishment of a high-school. They reminded the fathers that they had spent much money in sending ministers to America and had often been disappointed. "The Presbyterians," they say, "have established their second high-school at Carlisle. They desire our aid and offer to appoint several Reformed professors; but we fear that these professors would be accepted merely *pro forma*, and that it would finally lead to the rejection of the German language and the injury of the German people. Let the fathers apply their gifts to the establishment of such an institution."

In 1786 there is a similar appeal, and the ministers declare that they will "gladly renounce the annual contributions" which they receive from Holland, if the amount can be applied to a high-school. They insist that under

present conditions "no minister can save enough to educate his children." The appeal, however, was in vain, and "the fathers" in Holland remained inflexible.

In the Lutheran church the early history of the movement for higher education closely resembled the one which we have attempted to describe. With regard to the importance of establishing a literary institution there was no difference of opinion, but means were lacking for such an enterprise. The churches were poor, and the pastors did not venture to give up their only means of support to engage in a doubtful undertaking. Several pastors personally conducted private schools, but it was not until Professor J. C. Kunze founded the German Department of the University of Pennsylvania that anything important was accomplished in the cause of higher education. As Dr. Kunze himself relates the story,<sup>1</sup> it was in 1779 that the College in Philadelphia was incorporated as a University. According to the charter the oldest pastor of each religious denomination in Philadelphia became a member of the Board of Trustees. According to this arrangement Drs. Kunze and Weiberg respectively represented the Lutheran and Reformed churches of Philadelphia. At one of the earliest meetings of the Board Dr. Kunze proposed that something should be done for the German population of the State. "I represented," he says, "that there are entire counties which are occupied entirely by Germans whose children cannot speak a single word of English." It was finally determined to appoint a German Professor of Philology who was to prepare German students for the university, and also to teach Greek, Latin

<sup>1</sup>Letter to Dr. Freylinghausen, June 15, 1780. See *Hallesche Nachrichten*, II., p. 738.

and Hebrew to advanced classes. Dr. Kunze was elected to this position, and began to give instruction early in 1780. He was assisted by a Tutor, the Rev. Henry Möller, afterward of Albany. By a private arrangement Dr. Kunze divided his work in the university with his colleague in the pastorate, J. H. C. Helmuth, to whom on the removal of the former to New York the professorship was transferred.

The German Department, as we should now describe it, was a section of the preparatory school. Most of the instruction was imparted in German, but the students were required to devote two hours daily to the study of English. After they were admitted to college they were expected to recite in English. The German instructors were also professors in the college, but Dr. Kunze complained that the students did not take readily to the study of Greek and Hebrew.

The German Department was opened in the spring of 1780 with thirty-two pupils. In June, 1783, Dr. Helmuth writes:<sup>1</sup> "Our Academy is becoming more popular. We have now almost forty scholars. Several of these come from the country. In consequence of numerous duties in our large congregation our labor is often very exhausting, but we are cheered by the hope that it will not be altogether in vain. Among the earliest scholars—some of whom are of American birth—there are several who are very promising."

In another letter, dated April 14, 1785, the same writer says: "Our Academy is very prosperous. I have now about sixty scholars. . . . The Trustees are so well pleased with the school that they have transferred the English

<sup>1</sup> *Hallesche Nachrichten*, new ed., II., p. 742.



school to my apartment and mine to that of the English school, the largest and most convenient in the whole building, because my school is more than twice as large as the other. The Trustees have further granted me three Tutors, and help me in every way. Among the teachers there is fraternal unity and coöperation.<sup>1</sup> On the 20th of September, 1786, the German Department held a kind of Commencement which is thus described by Dr. Helmuth:

“To-day our *Actus Oratorius*, the first in America among us Germans, was celebrated in an imposing manner. The members of the Legislature, the Supreme Executive Council and Censors of the State, the Magistrates, the Trustees of the University, the entire Faculty and the German Society, together with many other gentlemen and ladies, honored us with their presence. The German Society had made arrangements for the music, which was performed during the intervals. I began with a prayer in the English language, after which one of my pupils very politely returned thanks to the Trustees for their favor towards the Germans in establishing a German professorship. One of the students gave an account in the German language of the establishment of the school. Two scholars entertained the audience with the discovery of a planet, the journey to and residence upon it, also in the German language. This contained a hidden moral. Another described, in German verse, the Day of Judgment; after him another, also in German verse, spoke of the greatness of God. Next four scholars came forward and conversed in German about ghosts and witchcraft, and the recent discovery of so-called Animal Magnetism was described by one of them. Three others engaged in a dialogue on Religious Toleration. Three scholars represented farmers’ children, of whom one who had been at school for two years gave instruction to the others upon subjects with which they had no acquaintance.

<sup>1</sup> *Hallesche Nachrichten*, new ed., II., p. 784.

This was intended to encourage our wealthy farmers to give their children a better education. Afterwards, as a member of the German Society, I delivered an address and our Provost closed with an English prayer.”

Another “Commencement” exercise was held in 1787, but soon afterwards the German Department was discontinued.<sup>1</sup> That it had proved a failure we are not prepared to admit. The school had been as prosperous as could reasonably have been expected, and it was not until it had been determined to establish another school in the interest of the Germans that it began to decline.

According to Dr. M. D. Learned the causes of this decline were two-fold: “First of all, the constant and systematic efforts of the English to anglicize the Germans. This led to a corresponding fear on the part of the Germans that they would lose their German characteristics. Secondly, the influence of the English in the University and the secondary position to which the Germans were reduced.” Additional causes might perhaps be suggested, not the least of which was the fact that the school had hitherto been mainly local, and that it had not been possible to interest the German people of the country districts in its development. It was therefore but natural for its friends to conceive the idea that if a similar institution were founded with a more favorable environment it would be more likely to meet the requirements of its German patrons. That this view was also taken by the English members of the Board of Trustees is evident from the interest which they manifested in the plan as soon as they comprehended it. They may have been tired of the German “annex,” but their

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Learned’s address at the opening of the Bechstein Germanic Library, March 21, 1896.

liberality in behalf of an institution which might have been dreaded as a possible rival is not to be doubted. There may have been a certain alienation on the part of the Germans, but it was by no means personal. It has indeed been suggested that the separation was the result of a quarrel,<sup>1</sup> but we cannot discover even a trace of misunderstanding. In an address to the Germans of Pennsylvania—apparently written in 1787 by Dr. Weiberg, but signed also by Dr. Helmuth—we read:

“There is already a High School in Philadelphia. Give it your support and your children and children’s children will call you blessed. Another High School is to be founded in Lancaster in the special interest of the Germans. O, that the German inhabitants of that fertile region appreciated the blessings which such an institution might convey to their descendants! May they embrace the opportunity now afforded them, and grant their aid so that the proposed school may as soon as possible be crowned with prosperity!”

The Germans of Pennsylvania were certainly not prepared to perform the proposed work without the aid of the English community. If they had been a united people the case might have been different; but apart from the fact that they consisted of various religious denominations which had never been trained to concerted action, there were

<sup>1</sup>See Braun’s *Mittheilungen aus Amerika*, where the author says that the whole movement was the result of envy and hatred (*Neid und Misgunst*) against Dr. Helmuth. This is certainly a mistake, caused by confounding two entirely different matters. Dr. Helmuth and his associate Dr. Schmidt were violently opposed by members of their congregation because they were not favorable to the use of the English language in any of the services of the church; but this opposition did not actually begin until 1804 and had nothing to do with the university. Dr. Helmuth remained Professor of German and Oriental Languages in the University of Pennsylvania until 1810.

many among them who were indifferent if not positively hostile to the cause of higher education. It was, therefore, fortunate that the most eminent ministers of the Lutheran and Reformed churches were on intimate terms with men of distinction throughout the State and had no difficulty in securing their coöperation.<sup>1</sup>

In a certain sense, of course, the German Department of the University of Pennsylvania had failed to meet the purposes of its promoters. It had become evident that a bilingual institution could not be permanently established

<sup>1</sup>The following interesting letter from Dr. Hendel to Dr. Benjamin Rush is preserved in the Ridgway branch of the Philadelphia Library Company.

*"Sir,*

*"It gave me great Pleasure to hear that a College was to be erected for the Benefit of the forlorn Germans; that Dr. Rush was amongst those who first moved for and encouraged so laudable an institution, greatly increased the Regard I had for you as a true Lover of Mankind and zealous promoter of useful and religious Knowledge.*

*"Your favor of the 13th inst. informed me of one of the fundamental articles that is reasonable and liberal, viz., that the Power and Offices shall be held equally and alternately by the Reformed (why our English Brethren call us Calvinists is unknown to me, I hope the expression will not be used in the charter) and by the Lutherans. Since our excellent Constitution hath put all Denominations of Christians on the same footing, I must beg leave to observe that it is equally liberal in both parties to join in this useful institution.*

*"I can, therefore, as to the other points which you are pleased to propose, only say this, that I expect they will be determined after the same reasonable and liberal principles.*

*"That God, the giver of all good and perfect gifts, may grant to this institution a flourishing success and make it subservient to the spread of His Knowledge and the glory of His Name, is the fervent wish of*

*"Sir,*

*"Your sincere Friend and obedient Servant,*

*"WM. HENDEL.*

*"Lancaster, Jan. 26, 1787."*

in Philadelphia. As Mr. J. G. Rosengarten has very courteously said:<sup>1</sup> "The experiment was not successful, but it led to the establishment of what is to-day Franklin and Marshall College, of Lancaster, which was to do for our Pennsylvania Germans what the College of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania had not been able to do."

<sup>1</sup> Address at the opening of the Bechstein Library.



## CHAPTER II.

### THE FOUNDERS OF THE COLLEGE.

#### FOUR EMINENT MINISTERS — PETITION TO THE LEGISLATURE — GENERAL PLAN OF THE COLLEGE — BENJAMIN FRANKLIN — SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

The founding of Franklin College cannot be ascribed to any single individual. It sprang, of course, in the first instance, from the united efforts of the ministers of the Reformed and Lutheran churches, and its establishment had been frequently discussed at synodical meetings as an object for which all should strive. There were, however, four eminent ministers—two Lutherans and two Reformed—who seem to have been the first to take active measures in the inauguration of the new educational movement, and who are accordingly deserving of especial honor. These men were the Rev. Drs. Helmuth,<sup>1</sup> Weiberg,<sup>2</sup> Hendel<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Justus Heinrich Christian Helmuth* was born May 16, 1745, in Brunswick, Germany; died in Philadelphia, February 5, 1825. He studied at Halle and was sent to America in 1769 as a missionary to the Germans. From 1769 to 1779 he was pastor of Trinity Lutheran church of Lancaster, and was then chosen to the pastorate of Zion's and St. Michael's churches of Philadelphia, which he faithfully served until 1820. He was the author of several volumes in prose and verse and edited the *Evangelical Magazine*. Among his publications his *Brief Account of the Yellow Fever* (1793) is probably now best known.

<sup>2</sup> *Caspar Dietrich Weiberg* (or Weyberg) was a native of Westofen in the county of Marck, Germany. He was educated at Duisburg and came to America as an ordained minister in 1762. He was pastor of the Reformed Church of Easton in 1763, and of the Race Street Reformed Church, Philadelphia, from 1763 to 1790. During the Revolution he was imprisoned by the British for his devotion to the American cause. He died August 21, 1790.

<sup>3</sup> *Johann Wilhelm Hendel* was born at Durkheim in the Palatinate and was educated at Heidelberg. In 1764 he was sent to America



and H. E. Muhlenberg.<sup>1</sup> They were men of great ability and influence and were also intimate personal friends. Helmuth—who outlived the others—recorded his affection for Weiberg in a beautiful poem, and at the funeral of Hendel he preached a sermon on the text: “I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me.”

That Helmuth was popularly regarded as the leader of the movement for the establishment of a German College is sufficiently plain, but he was ably seconded by Dr. Weiberg. The charter of the University of Pennsylvania did not allow a professor to be a member of the Board of Trustees, and Dr. Helmuth was compelled to resign his seat<sup>2</sup> when he entered the Faculty. It therefore became the province of Dr. Weiberg to represent the Germans at the meetings of the Board, and in this respect he accomplished a very important work. He was a man of high culture and agreeable manners, and it was greatly due to his efforts that so many eminent men became interested in the cause which he so earnestly advocated. Hendel and Muhlenberg were pastors of the Reformed and Lutheran churches of

by the synods of Holland and was successively pastor of the following charges: Reformed Church of Lancaster, 1765-’69; Tulpehocken, 1769-’82; Lancaster, the second time, 1782-’94; Philadelphia, 1794-’98. He died of yellow fever, September 29, 1798.

<sup>1</sup> *Gotthilf Heinrich Ernst Mühlenberg*, youngest son of the Rev. Henry Melchior Mühlenberg, “the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America,” was born at New Providence, Montgomery County, Pa., November 17, 1753; died at Lancaster, Pa., May 23, 1815. He studied at Halle, became assistant pastor of the Lutheran Church of Philadelphia in 1774 and was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, from 1780 until his death. He was a celebrated botanist and an active member of the American Philosophical Society and other learned bodies. Appleton’s *Cyclopædia of American Biography* says: “His works are regarded as standards by scientists.”

<sup>2</sup> *Hallesche Nachrichten*, new ed., II., p. 739.

Lancaster. They were men of influence and on their earnest coöperation the Philadelphia pastors greatly depended. In Lancaster there had been a classical school, and the people may have been to some degree prepared for an institution of more advanced grade. Concerning the classical school I. D. Rupp says:<sup>1</sup>

“About the year 1780, Jasper Yeates, Esq., Casper Shaffner, Esq., Col. George Ross, Charles Hall, Esq., and other gentlemen of the place, finding that the existing schools under the charge of the Lutheran and German Reformed congregations, as also the one established a number of years previous by the Moravians, and conducted upon the same plan, were inadequate to the growing wants of the people, and incapable of teaching the higher branches, engaged the services of a teacher of recommended abilities, to conduct a select academy for the education of their male children. The Academy continued in existence for several years as the High School of the place, until, owing to the violent temper of the teacher and the many indignities which he offered to the pupils under his charge, it was finally suspended. This school suggested the idea of establishing another, but upon a surer basis, under the control of Trustees by an act of incorporation, and ultimately begot the application to the Legislature for the incorporation of Franklin College.”

The last sentence of the above quotation contains a manifest error, but it is otherwise interesting as showing how the way was prepared for the founding of a college in Lancaster. That the application to the Legislature did not originate in Lancaster is evident from the following petition which was signed exclusively by Philadelphians. It was presented to the Legislature by Col. Hubley as early as December 11, 1786:

<sup>1</sup> *History of Lancaster County*, by I. Daniel Rupp, 1844, p. 446.

*“To the Honourable the Representatives of the Freemen of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met,—*

*“The petition of the Trustees of the German College and Charity School to be established in Lancaster,*

*“Respectfully sheweth,*

“That your petitioners have been led to undertake the charge of this institution from a conviction of the necessity of diffusing knowledge through every part of the State, in order to preserve our present republican system of government, as well as to promote those improvements in the arts and sciences which alone render nations respectable, great and happy.

“That notwithstanding the prospects of your petitioners of obtaining funds to carry their designs into effect are considerable from private contributions, yet they are induced to apply to your honorable House for a donation of a proportion of the lands that were appropriated by a former assembly for the support of public schools, in order that they may lay a more solid foundation for their extensive and charitable views in establishing this seminary.

“Your petitioners pray likewise for a charter of incorporation, conferring such powers and privileges as are usually given to colleges, and which have been found so useful and necessary in promoting industry, emulation and laudable ambition in literary pursuits.

“Your petitioners have taken the liberty to accompany their petition with a list of the trustees who have been nominated and the proposed general plan of the institution.

“THOMAS MCKEAN,

“BENJAMIN RUSH,

“J. H. CHRISTIAN HELMUTH,

“PHILIP WAGER,

“CASPARUS WEIBERG,

“WILLIAM BINGHAM,

“PETER MUHLENBERG,

“WILLIAM RAWLE,

“LEWIS FARMER,

“WILLIAM SHEAFF.”

The above petition was accompanied by the following:

## GENERAL PLAN OF THE COLLEGE.

“A number of gentlemen of this commonwealth having taken into consideration the necessity and advantage of diffusing literature among their German fellow-citizens, have come to a determination to establish a German college and Charity School in the borough of Lancaster. They have been led to make choice of this place from its central and healthy situation, the character of its inhabitants, the conveniences with which students of every description may be accommodated with board and lodgings, and the probability that the necessary buildings may be immediately procured, and at a moderate expense.

“The design of this institution is to promote an accurate knowledge of the German and English languages, also of the learned languages, of mathematics, morals, and natural philosophy, divinity, and all such other branches of literature as will tend to make good men and useful citizens.

“It is proposed that this institution shall be put under the direction of forty trustees, fourteen of whom shall be chosen from the Lutheran and fourteen from the Reformed, or Calvinist, Churches. The remaining trustees to be chosen indiscriminately from any other society of Christians. And in order to secure the seminary at all times from any departure from its original principles, it is laid down as a fundamental article that the principal of the college shall be chosen from the Lutheran and Reformed (or Calvinist) churches alternately, unless such of the trustees as belong to these two societies shall unanimously agree to choose two or more persons in succession of the same denomination, or some suitable person or persons of any other Society of Christians. From a profound respect for the character of His Excellency the President of the State, the institution shall be called Franklin College.”

Benjamin Franklin was the most distinguished citizen

of Pennsylvania, and was certainly highly deserving of the honor which it was proposed to confer upon him. He had been instrumental in the establishment of many educational and philanthropic institutions. Among these may be mentioned the Philadelphia Library Company, the Pennsylvania Hospital, the American Philosophical Society and the University of Pennsylvania. Franklin had, indeed, come to be regarded as the natural patron of every important literary or benevolent enterprise, and the insti-



tution was deemed fortunate which secured his coöperation and thus became to some extent a partaker of his brilliant reputation. That he took a profound interest in the college that was to bear his name we have every reason to believe. He had for many years claimed to be in a special sense the friend of the Germans of Pennsylvania, with whom he had been associated in many important enterprises. He had printed a number of their books, and on innumerable occasions had served as their political adviser. In later years their mutual relations had become less intimate, but he was earnestly desirous of retaining their favor. Though he was now advanced in years it must have caused him the keenest pleasure to be instrumental in the educational advancement of a people who had long been his trusted supporters.

It is to be regretted that the original list of subscriptions to the endowment of the new college has not been preserved.



The following memorandum<sup>1</sup> is interesting because it gives the amount of a few of the earliest subscriptions:

“The following Gentlemen have paid their subscriptions towards Franklin College in Lancaster—

“ His Excellency Benjn. Franklin, Esq., Cash paper .....	£200
Robert Morris, Esq., being old Continental Loan office Certificates in favour of John McMickin, who not being a Resident in this State cannot be charged by the Comptroller. The amount 600 Drs. which have drawn interest in France for some years.	
Hon. Peter Muhlenberg, Esq., in Certifs.....	50
Charles Biddle, Esq., Do. ....	18.17
William Rawle, Esq., Do. ....	37.10
George Fox, Esq., Do. ....	37.11.11½
Frederick Kuhl, Do. ....	50. 5. 3
Robert Traill, Esq., Paper Money.....	3. 0. 0
Samuel Dean, Esq., Ditto ....	3
John Smilie, Esq., Ditto ....	3
John Beard, Esq., Ditto ....	3
David Reddick, Esq., Ditto ....	3
John Arndt, Esq., Ditto ....	4.10. 0
Henry Hill, Esq., A Certificate.....	37.10
Interest received on some of the Certificates...	6.19. 3
	£226. 9. 3
Paid at several times per order.....	91. 0.11
Remains in my hands a balance of.....	£135. 8. 4

“ (Signed)

“ FREDERICK KUHLE.”

In the above list the names of some of the most prominent of the founders do not appear, though it may be taken for granted that they contributed to the funds. Benjamin Rush<sup>2</sup> was one of the most active of the friends of the new

<sup>1</sup>The original is in the possession of Mr. D. McN. Stauffer, of Yonkers, N. Y. Though it bears no date it must have been written very soon after the founding of the college.

<sup>2</sup>Benjamin Rush, M.D., was born near Philadelphia, December 24, 1745, and died April 19, 1813. He studied in Edinburgh, London



college, and in subsequent years was always ready with advice and assistance.

Gen. Peter Muhlenberg<sup>1</sup> was also greatly interested in the new college and is believed to have been the author of several enthusiastic articles which appeared in the papers of the day. He was at this time Vice-President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania and exerted his influence to secure the favor of the Legislature. His signature appears on several documents relating to the real estate of the new institution.

Franklin College was founded in the interest of the Germans, but it was never intended to be exclusively a German institution. It was expressly declared that the students were to learn English, besides "all those branches of literature which are usually taught in the colleges of Europe and America." Indeed, in the course of instruction the English language was always most prominent, and knowledge of German was never a requirement for admission. The main purpose of the founders, as we conceive it, was to establish an institution in which German life and literature would be appreciated, and in which the sons of Germans might be educated without becoming alienated

and Paris, and was for many years a professor in the Medical College of Philadelphia. Taking an active part in public affairs he was chosen a member of the Continental Congress and became a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was the author of "Diseases of the Mind" and many other publications.

<sup>1</sup> John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, son of the Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, was born at the Trappe, Pa., October 1, 1746, and died October 1, 1807. He studied in Germany and was for several years a minister, but at the beginning of the Revolution he entered the American army, rising to the rank of a Major-General. After the war he was United States Senator and also held several important civil appointments.

from the faith of their fathers. It was in sympathy with this spirit that Dr. Rush wrote,<sup>1</sup> in 1789:

“Legislators of Pennsylvania, learn from the history of your German fellow-citizens, that you possess an inexhaustible treasure in the bosom of the State, in their manners and arts. Continue to patronize their newly established Seminary of learning (Franklin College) and spare no expense in supporting their free-schools. . . . Do not contend with their prejudices in favor of their language. It will be the channel through which the knowledge and discoveries of the wisest nations in Europe may be conveyed into our country. In proportion as they are instructed and enlightened in their own language, they will become acquainted with the language of the United States.”

<sup>1</sup> “Manners of the German Inhabitants of Pennsylvania.” Reprinted with notes by Professor I. Daniel Rupp, Philadelphia, 1875, page 60.

## CHAPTER III.

### THE CHARTER.

INCORPORATION — THE TRUSTEES — CHARITY SCHOOL — THE BREW HOUSE — THE STORE HOUSE — LETTER FROM GENERAL KNOX.

The Charter of Franklin College was granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania on the 10th of March, 1787, and was duly attested by Thomas Mifflin as Speaker of the House. The earliest copy cannot now be found, but we have an exact transcript, made in 1828 and certified by John Andrew Shulze, Governor of Pennsylvania. It appears, of course, among the Laws of Pennsylvania, but there are also two pamphlets which claim to contain the original charter—the one in German and the other in English.<sup>1</sup> These printed pamphlets vary slightly in contents, the German leaving a blank space for the number of acres of land to be appropriated by the Legislature and the English adding the names of five trustees who do not appear in the German edition. We take it for granted that the German version was printed before the law was actually passed, and as the English literally corresponds with the official copy we shall follow it in what we have to say concerning the Charter.

Legal documents are rarely interesting to the general

<sup>1</sup> Freyheitsbrief der Deutschen Hohen Schule (College) in der Stadt-Lancaster in dem Staate Pennsylvania; nebst einer Anrede an die Deutschen dieses Staats, von den Trusties der besagten Hohen Schule.

Philadelphia, Melchior Steiner, 1787.

Charter of Franklin College. Published by Resolution of the Board, Passed 19th October, A. D. 1837.

Lancaster, Bryson and Forney, 1837.

reader, and we shall, therefore, not repeat what the Charter has to say concerning "messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels, monies, or other effects." It may be said, however, that its scope and character were anticipated in the "General Plan" which we have reproduced. The institution was incorporated as "a College and Charity School," and "from a profound respect for the talents, virtues and services to mankind in general,



but more especially to this country, of His Excellency Benjamin Franklin, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council" it was denominated "Franklin College." The institution received authority to hold property and receive bequests, "provided always the same do not exceed in the whole the yearly value of ten thousand pounds, valuing one Portugal half Johannes, weighing nine pennyweight, at three pounds." It is needless to say that this provision was never infringed.

The following Trustees were thus nominated in the charter:<sup>1</sup>

The Honorable Thomas Mifflin, Esquire; The Honor-

<sup>1</sup> A few manifest errors in orthography have been corrected.

able Thomas McKean, Esquire, Doctor of Laws; The Reverend Doctor John Henry Christian Helmuth; The Reverend Caspar Weiberg; The Reverend Henry Muhlenberg; The Reverend William Hendel; The Reverend Nicholas Kurtz; The Reverend George Troldenier; The Reverend John Herbst; The Reverend Joseph Hutchins; The Reverend Frederick Weinland; The Reverend Albertus Helffenstein; The Reverend William Ingold; The Reverend Jacob Van Buskirk; The Reverend Abraham Blumer; The Reverend Frederick Dallicker; The Reverend Christopher Emanuel Schultz; The Reverend John B. Cousie;<sup>1</sup> Peter Muhlenberg, Esquire; The Reverend Frederick Valentine Melsheimer; John Hubley, Esquire; Joseph Hiester, Esquire; Casper Schaffner; Peter Hoofnagle, Esquire; Christopher Crawford;<sup>2</sup> Paul Zantzinger; Adam Hubley, Esquire; Adam Reigart; Jasper Yeates, Esquire; Stephen Chambers, Esquire; The Honorable Robert Morris, Esquire; George Clymer, Esquire; Philip Wager; The Honorable William Bingham, Esquire; William Hamilton; William Sheaff; Doctor Benjamin Rush; Daniel Hiester, Esquire; William Rawle, Esq.; Lewis Farmer, Esquire; Christopher Kucher; Philip Greenwaldt; Michael Hahn; George Stake, Senior, Esquire; John Musser.

This was a very intelligent and distinguished body. Rush, McKean, Clymer and Morris had been signers of the Declaration of Independence; Muhlenberg, Mifflin, the two Hiesters, Chambers, Farmer, Crawford, and pos-

<sup>1</sup> Roman Catholic priest in Lancaster. In the German copy his name appears as "J. B. Kauss."

<sup>2</sup> In the German list this name appears as "Graffert" and this was probably the original spelling. He was a prominent citizen of Lancaster and had been an officer in the Revolution.



sibly others, had been officers in the war of the Revolution; Mifflin, McKean, and Joseph Hiester became Governors of Pennsylvania; Jasper Yeates and William Rawle were distinguished Jurists; and Bingham and Muhlenberg became Senators of the United States. Of the ministers whose names appeared seven were Reformed, an equal number were Lutherans, one was Moravian and one Roman Catholic. In brief, every name on the list was that of an intellectual and influential man.

According to the charter fifteen members of the Board were forever to be "chosen from the members of the Lutheran church, and the like number from the members of the Reformed church, and the remainder from any other society of Christians." All members were required to be residents of the State, and no member of the faculty could hold the office of Trustee. The Principal (or President) was to be alternately chosen from the Lutheran and Reformed churches, unless the Board, at an annual or adjourned meeting, should unanimously decide otherwise. Professors could be removed only "for misconduct or a breach of the laws of the institution." The Faculty were granted power to enforce the rules and regulations adopted by the Trustees, to reward and censure students, and to suspend such students as proved refractory after repeated admonitions until the Board of Trustees could take final action in the premises. With the approbation and consent of the Board of Trustees the Faculty was also authorized to confer "such degrees in the liberal arts and sciences to such pupils of the said college, or other persons, who by their proficiency in learning or other meritorious distinctions they shall think entitled to them, as are usually granted and conferred in other colleges in America and



Europe, and to grant to such graduates, diplomas or certificates, under their common seal and signed by the Faculty, to authenticate and perpetuate the memory of such graduation."

The thirteenth article of the Charter now appears curious. It reads as follows:

"To facilitate the acquisition of learning to all ranks of people being one of the primary and fundamental objects of this institution, one sixth part of the capital real and personal fund of the said college, not including the monies paid for tuition, shall be irrevocably appropriated, together with such gifts and bequests as may be hereafter made to the said college for that special purpose, to the maintenance and support of a Charity School, for children of both sexes and all religious denominations, on the most liberal plan consistent with the ability of the said college."

The exact purpose of this article it is not easy now to determine. It seems to have included a reminiscence of Schlatter's Charity Schools, and may have been intended to secure from the authority certain favors which are usually accorded to benevolent institutions. Possibly, it was hoped that by making provision for the establishment of a primary school the sympathy of the community might be most readily secured. Whatever may have been the expectations of the founders, it is certain that the plan of establishing a charity school was never carried out. In the report of a treasurer, some thirty years later, it is no doubt truly stated that "the sixth part of the income was never sufficiently large to be taken into separate account," but the spirit of the provision was believed to be fully met by the free tuition of a number of poor children.

In the fourth section of the Charter it was enacted by

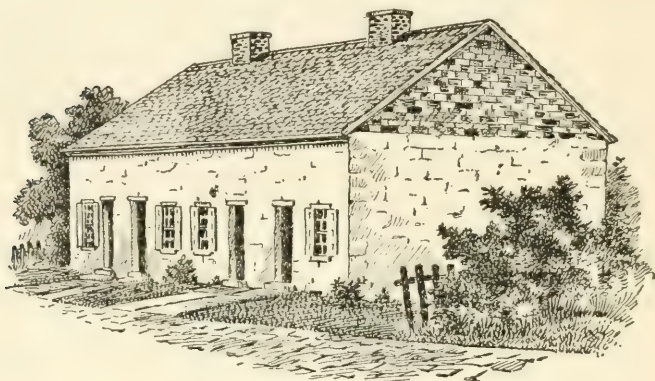
the Legislature that "ten thousand acres of land, together with a six per centum allowance, set out and surveyed within the unappropriated lands of this State be, and they are hereby granted to the said Trustees of 'Franklin College,' in the borough and county of Lancaster, to have and to hold the same to them, their successors and assigns forever." It was further enacted that the Surveyor-General be required to issue the warrants as they might be applied for by the Trustees and that the surveying should be done at the charge of the State.

Some of the friends of Franklin College were dissatisfied because the gift of the Assembly did not include an appropriation in money. A correspondent to a local newspaper of that day complains that the Legislature is always ready to favor the University of Pennsylvania, but has nothing for the poor Germans except wild lands. It should, however, be remembered that the friends of the institution, in the petition for incorporation, had asked for nothing but their "proportion of the lands appropriated by a former Assembly for the support of public schools," and this they had received. A more humble petition might have secured a more abundant donation. Still, as the lands appropriated were in those days regarded as practically worthless, it must be confessed that the gift of the Legislature was by no means liberal. A supplementary act was, however, passed on the 27th of February, 1788, "vesting the public Store House and two lots of grounds in the borough and county of Lancaster, in the Trustees of Franklin College for the use of said institution." The Store House was situated on North Queen Street, near James, and was then practically "out of town."

Until the second grant had been made the college occu-

pied the "Brew House," on Mifflin Street west of Duke Street, near Trinity Lutheran church. A school must have been kept there at an earlier date, for Dr. Muhlenberg says in a letter to Dr. Rush, dated June 25, 1787, that it is proposed to begin instructing the students "in the Brew House, the former place," and to ask the next Assembly for a gift of the Store House.<sup>1</sup>

The Brew House was subsequently used as a station-house or lock-up. It has recently been taken down, but the



THE BREW HOUSE.

accompanying illustration was sketched from a photograph in possession of the author.

The Store House was erected during the Revolution for the preservation of government stores. It was a plain, brick building, one hundred feet in length and thirty-five in breadth. It was neither handsome nor commodious and required expensive alterations before it could be used as a school-building. It is still standing, though long ago divided into dwellings, and now constitutes a part of what

<sup>1</sup>Preserved among the "Rush Papers" in the Ridgway Library, Philadelphia.

is known as Franklin Row. In the second story of the southern gable the outlines of a large door, which has been bricked up, may still be traced.

When the Store House was transferred to the College it still contained certain public stores, which were the property of the United States. That these remained there longer than had been expected appears from the following letter of General Knox, Secretary of War, of which the original is in the collection of Mr. George Steinman :

“WAR OFFICE, 17th April, 1790.

“*Sir,*

“By some mistake I find your letter of the 18th of January last has not been answered.

“An expectation of some general arsenals being permanently established has hitherto prevented the removal or disposal of the few public stores in Lancaster. The expectation still continues but its accomplishment does not appear to be immediate. I must therefore leave to your judgment—in case the college should demand the buildings or rent for the same—to make the best disposition of the stores in case of being obliged to remove them or bargain for the rent of the buildings in which they now are.

“It will not be necessary to make any returns at stated periods, but only on such occasions as from any causes shall happen.

“I am, Sir,

“With great respect,

“Your most obedient servant,

“H. KNOX.”

“The Honorable General Hand.”

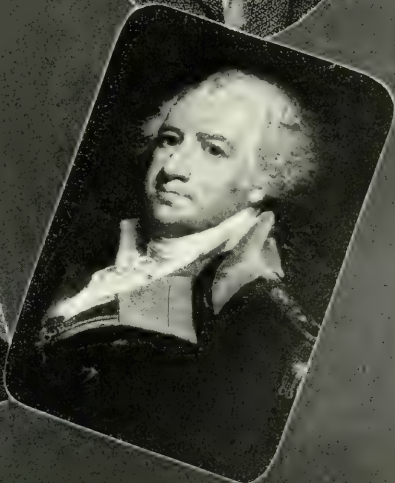
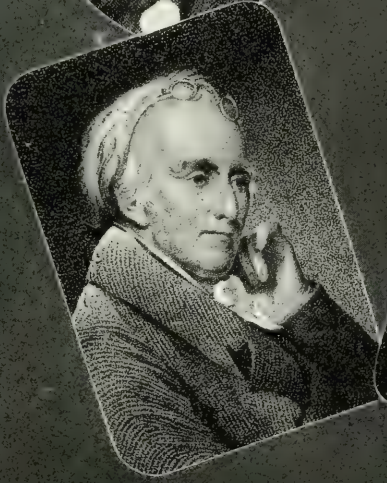
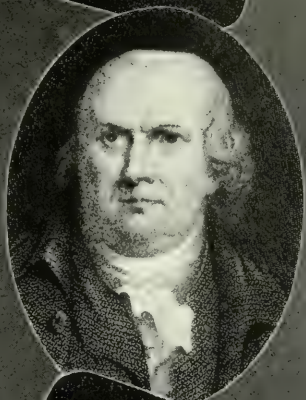
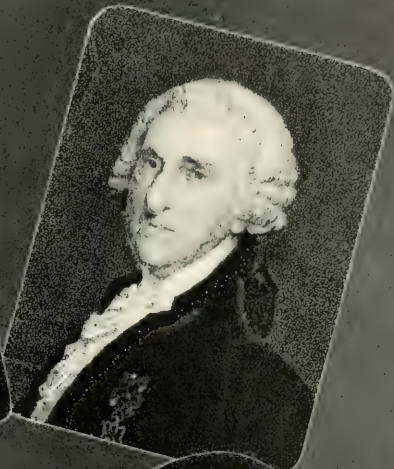
At what time the last remaining public stores were removed from the college building is now unknown.

The charter has been described as liberal, but this can

only be said with respect to the authority which was granted to the Board of Trustees. In some respects it was cumbrous and defective, and it was at times no easy matter to guard the rights of all the parties which claimed an interest. Of the board it might have been said, as was said of early Rome, that it was composed of three tribes, each of which was mainly solicitous of preserving its original privileges.

The founders were, however, greatly encouraged by the subscriptions which they had received, especially in Philadelphia, and fondly imagined that when the Germans became fully aware of the work that was done in their behalf they would be ready to give their enthusiastic support. They accordingly proceeded to make arrangements for a public festival in connection with the opening of the college, and certainly did all in their power to render it an occasion that might attract general attention and be long and favorably remembered.





J. H. C. HELMUTH.  
JASPER YEATES.  
BENJAMIN RUSH.

THOMAS MACKEAN.  
ROBERT MORRIS.  
THOMAS MIFFLIN.

FRANKLIN COLLEGE TRUSTEES.





## CHAPTER IV.

### THE FORMAL OPENING.

JUNE 6, 1787.

PREPARATIONS — CORRESPONDENCE — PROCESSION AND PROGRAM —  
ELECTION OF PROFESSORS — ADDRESSES BY DRS. MUHLEN-  
BERG AND HUTCHINS.

Preparations for the dedication—as it was generally called—began to be made many months before its actual occurrence. At the time of the annual meeting of the Reformed Cœtus, in 1786, the exact date had not been determined, so that body adjourned *sine die*, to meet in Lancaster whenever the members were notified that the festival was to be held. The earliest document in our possession is a printed circular addressed to Pastor Muhlenberg, of Lancaster, of which the following is a translation:

“S. T. Respected Sirs,

“*Dearest Friends,*

“You have no doubt read in the papers published by Mr. Steiner and others, that agreeable prospects have been opened to our German nation in this western land, concerning the establishment of a German school. In all parts of the world God has for centuries distinguished the Germans as the recipients of his care; but it is in North America and especially in Pennsylvania that they have experienced the special blessings of His Providence. Most of the Germans were poor and forsaken when they came to this country, but their industry and the blessing of the Lord has placed many of them in prosperous circumstances, so that there are comparatively few of them who are unable to make a comfortable living. It

is not too much to say that the Germans occupy the front rank among the people who have made Pennsylvania a fertile field, even the garden of all North America.

“But with all these advantages most of them have remained standing on the lowest plane of service. The Germans, on account of their peculiar virtues, have hitherto been very necessary members of the Republic; but they have not considered that a true republican must also possess education, so as to take part in directing the rudder of the government, and to give his children an opportunity of rising to the higher levels of republican utility.

“The fortunate moment appears to have arrived when the Germans of America are offered an opportunity of advancing their educational institutions to the fortunate position occupied by those of their brethren in Europe.

“The first German college in America is about to be founded, and the project is supported with great zeal even by persons who are not Germans, so that there can be no doubt that the whole movement is directed by more than a human hand.

“We send you herewith the Charter of this German institution. The Assembly, without the slightest contradiction, has expressed its approval of this enterprise, and there is not the least doubt that this charter will be confirmed at the next meeting.

“Honored Sirs, you have been appointed trustees of this institution, and even without our encouragement you will not fail to labor to secure for our children and children’s children an opportunity to become useful citizens of our republic. Encourage others—English or Germans, who are so inclined—to aid you in your neighborhood in securing subscriptions.

“In Philadelphia several liberal subscriptions have already been received, and the subscribers are laboring earnestly to secure additional contributions for this institution.

“On the 6th of June of the current year the first meeting

will (D. V.) be held in Lancaster. Please present yourselves at the appointed time and place, to return your subscription papers and those of others who have assisted in this work in your vicinity, and afterwards, under the blessing of God, to assist in placing the institution upon such a foundation that the welfare of the state and the honor of the Lord in churches, schools and courts may thereby be everywhere advanced.

“We remain

“S. T. Respected Sirs,

“Dearest Friends,

“Your most obedient servants and  
affectionate Friends.

“To the Trustees and other earnest  
promoters of the German High School  
to be founded in Lancaster.

“(Signed in manuscript)

HEINRICH HELMUTH.

CASPARUS WEIBERG;

*by order of the other Trustees  
in Phila.*

“PHILA., Jan. 19, 1787,

“To PASTOR MUHLENBERG.”

On the opposite page of the above circular is the following manuscript note.

“P. S. Enclosed is a letter from Mr. Schmidt; more from me hereafter. Only this: According to our plan you are to be the Principal and Pastor Hendel the Vice-Principal of the new academy. May God grant an abundant blessing to the work! What will the Address<sup>1</sup> accomplish among the Germans?

“Your old acquaintance,

“HEINRICH HELMUTH.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Anrede an die Deutschen*, published with the German edition of the Charter.

<sup>2</sup> It will be observed that the above was written in January, 1787, while the election of the members of the Faculty did not take place until the following June.

This note would alone be sufficient to settle all possible questions concerning the relations of Dr. Helmuth to the new institution. It has been intimated that he desired to be himself elected to the presidency, but this is certainly a mistake. To have accepted such a position would have demanded extraordinary self-denial; and though he would no doubt have been willing to make the sacrifice if the occasion had demanded it, the prospect of leaving Philadelphia to become the president of an impecunious college was certainly not alluring. Dr. Muhlenberg was pastor of the Lutheran church of Lancaster; and it does not appear that he ever accepted a salary for his services in the new institution.

Dr. Helmuth was very active in making preparations for the formal opening of the college, and seems to have been in some degree the master of ceremonies. The following is a translation of an interesting letter addressed by him to Dr. Muhlenberg:

“PHILADELPHIA, March 19, 1787.

“*Dearest Brother in Christ,*—

“I must be careful not to exceed the space which has been left for me, for this letter was signed before it was written, and I cannot be expected to address you in the dignified style which one ought to employ when writing in the name of the gentlemen whose names are subscribed. How would it do to fill up the page with an obligation? Just think, three such papers have been committed to my care; you may judge how well my credit must stand with these people.

“But to business:

“1. You or Pastor Hendel must undertake to preach a sermon in German. This sermon must earnestly and effectively impress upon the people of Lancaster the importance of higher education. N. B.—But it must under no circumstances be more than twenty-five minutes in length.



"2. If Dr. Hendel should undertake to preach the sermon, you will offer a prayer in German at the altar; and in your prayer, in returning thanks, you will make special mention of the prosperity of the Germans and of its increase by means of education.

"3. I send you herewith several copies of the Order of Dedication. When I meet you personally I will give you the reasons why the procession was arranged according to the program.

"As regards the verses you will have to accept them as composed by men who are overloaded with more work than they can possibly perform.

"Mr. Ott sends you the music for the several pieces, so that your Lancaster singers may rehearse them properly. Several of our best singers have already been engaged, and will be in Lancaster at the proper time to assist in the music. The solos and antistrophes will be sung by the singers from Philadelphia; the echo requires that the singers should stand opposite to each other, and therefore the solos and antistrophes might also be sung by these gentlemen from the north side of your church, opposite to the organ. Concerning the German hymn, I have to say that the response is to be sung by the children. This may, in my opinion, be thus arranged: you can have the space before the altar occupied with benches, on which the children may be seated and there sing their response. It is presumed that this would make a good impression on their parents. Lutheran and Reformed children must sing together.

"Let the choir be pretty large. There are singers enough among the Lutherans and especially among the Reformed.

"I hope the gentlemen of Lancaster will not be displeased because we are so busy and help to make arrangements sixty-six miles away, especially as one of the Lancaster members is aiding us. Here the majority of the Trustees live near together, and it is at any rate always necessary that some one should take the initiative.

"Lancaster owes much to Dr. Rush, and the university will always find in him an active supporter. Our subscriptions indicate that we shall be able, without doubt, to bring about £2500 with us to Lancaster. I hope you will love the contributors and most cheerfully do what they tell you.<sup>1</sup>

"Four thousand copies of the Order of Exercises are to be printed, which will be distributed on the day of dedication.

"Please provide lodgings for my singers—they are four in number, and Mr. Ott will be one of them. The trustees will pay the expenses of the journey; their board, I presume, they will receive gratuitously.

"Ah! here already are the signatures, and I can therefore only add, that the following gentlemen are your good friends and feel confident that you will carefully attend to the above matters and make all necessary preparations.

"CASPARUS WEIBERG,

"THOS. MCKEAN,

"P. MUHLENBERG,

"DAN. HIESTER, JR.,

"JOS. HIESTER,

"PHILIP WAGER,

"WM. SHEAFF,

"BENJ. RUSH,

"HEINRICH HELMUTH."

There can be no doubt that the necessary preparations for the formal opening were carefully made, and that everything possible was done to render it a brilliant success. Beautifully engrossed invitations were extended to the officers of all the churches of Lancaster, and there is every reason to believe that they were generally accepted. The following specimen is in possession of Mr. George Steinman:

<sup>1</sup>This no doubt refers to Dr. Muhlenberg's acceptance of the presidency of the college.

## "THE TRUSTEES OF FRANKLIN COLLEGE

"Request the Officers of the MORAVIAN CONGREGATION to meet them on Wednesday, the 6th day of June instant, at nine o'clock in the morning, at the Court House in the Borough of Lancaster, to walk in procession to the German Lutheran church, where the dedication of Franklin College is to be conducted.

"LANCASTER, June 1st, 1787."

That special invitations were extended to eminent men who were not directly connected with the movement appears from the following letter of the Hon. Wm. Augustus Atlee, Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, of which a copy is preserved among the Records of the College:

"ACTON, 6th June, 1787.

"*Dear Sir,*

"I was yesterday honoured with a billet from the Trustees of Franklin College requesting me to meet them at 9 o'clock this morning at the Court House, to walk in procession to the Church where the dedication of the College is to be conducted.

"As I think you are one of the Trustees I take the liberty of troubling you to present my most respectful compliments to those gentlemen and to mention that I should have waited on them with the greatest cheerfulness; but cannot conveniently leave home at present as I have matters on hand which I cannot neglect and am preparing for a journey to Maryland on business respecting my brother's estate which requires my attention.

"Inclosed is Five pounds which you will please to place among the collections of the day as my mite for the benefit of the Institution with my best wishes for its success.

"I am, Sir,

"Your most obdt. servt.,

"WILLM. A. ATLEE."

"Jasper Yeates, Esquire."

On the 5th and 6th of June there was a great gathering of the friends of the new institution. The Lutheran Ministerium and the Reformed Cœtus had both met in Lancaster by appointment, in order that all the ministers might be in attendance on this interesting occasion. Nearly all the appointed members of the Board of Trustees were present at their first meeting.<sup>1</sup> There must have been a long procession of carriages bringing friends from Philadelphia, and there were representatives from all the principal towns of Pennsylvania.

The program, of which according to Dr. Helmuth's letter four thousand copies were to be distributed, has now become exceedingly rare. Besides the copy in possession of the author but two or three specimens are known. It is a quarto of eight pages, with a German and an English title-page. The Order of Exercises is printed in English and German on opposite pages, with no important difference in contents, except that several poetic compositions, in English and German, are respectively printed at length only in the appropriate program. We here reproduce the English title-page and program as nearly as modern typography will permit:

“FRANKLIN COLLEGE.

“A meeting of the Trustees of Franklin College to be held at the Court-House, in Lancaster, on the 5th of June, at Three o’Clock in the Afternoon, when the Officers of the Board and the Faculty of the College are to be chosen.

“On Wednesday, the 6th of June, at 9 o’clock in the Morning, the Gentlemen mentioned in the following Order of

<sup>1</sup> Among the Rush papers in the Ridgway Branch Library there is a letter from Michael Hahn, of York, asking to be excused for non-attendance. George Stake is also known to have been absent. We have no records of other absences.

## O r d n u n g

welche in Absicht der

Procession und öffentlichen Gottesdienſtes

von der

## E i n w e i h u n g

der

Franklinischen Deutschen Hohe Schule,

in der Stadt und Grafschaft

L a n c a s t e r,

zu beobachten.

Philadelphia:

Verdruckt von Melchior Steiner, in der Druckerey, zwischen der Dritten-  
und Dritten-Straße. 1787.

## O R D E R

o f

PROCESSION and PUBLIC WORSHIP

to be observed in the

## D E D I C A T I O N

o f

FRANKLIN COLLEGE,

in the Borough and County of

L A N C A S T E R.

P H I L A D E L P H I A :

Printed by Melchior Steiner, in Race-Street, between Second- and  
Third-Streets. 1787.



Procession are to meet at the Court House, and proceed from thence two and two to the German Lutheran church.

### “PROCESSION.

- “1. Sheriff and Coroner of the County.
- “2. Pupils.
- “3. Faculty of the College.
- “4. President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees. Members of the Board, two and two.
- “5. Corporation of the Borough and Justices of the Peace.
- “6. Cœtus of the Reformed Church, President, Secretary and Members, two and two.
- “7. Corporation of the Lutheran Congregation.
- “8. Elders and Officers of the English Presbyterian Congregation.
- “9. The Officers of the Roman Catholic Congregation.
- “10. The Vestrymen and Church Wardens of the Protestant Episcopal Congregation.
- “11. The Officers of the Moravian Congregation.
- “12. Corporation of the Reformed Congregation.
- “13. Evang. Lutheran Ministry.
- “14. County Lieutenant and Officers of Militia.
- “After they are seated in Church, the Dedication to be conducted in the following Manner.
- “1. Prayer before the Altar in German.
- “2. The following Ode in English:

### “1. STROPHE.

“HAIL, ye Banks of Conestogoe!  
 Fertile, favor'd Region, hail!  
 Chosen Seat of FRANKLIN COLLEGE,  
 What but Good can here prevail?  
 Science never comes alone,  
 Peace and Plenty,  
 Heaven itself support her Cause.

“1. ANTISTROPHE.

“Creator, hail! thy Light and Glory  
 Rejoice the Good, the Bad dismay,  
 Dispel the Mists of Vice and Folly,  
 And consecrate this happy Day.  
 Now doubly blest the favor'd Region,  
 Where Science joins with mild Religion,  
 To raise their grateful Hymns to God.

“2. STROPHE.

“By JEHOVAH'S Care protected  
 The Fabric gains a Height sublime,  
 Truth expands its bright Effulgence,  
 Error seeks another Clime,  
 All its dark and base Attendants,  
 Superstition,  
 Pride and Discord fly from Truth.

“2. ANTISTROPHE.

“All in the glorious Work assisting,  
 We build on Christ, the Corner-Stone.  
 The Walls may bear diverse Directions,  
 The Building still shall be but One,  
 Devotion pure and peaceful Science  
 United, bid their Foes Defiance,  
 While Time remains, the Work shall stand.

“3. A Hymn in German.

“4. A Sermon in German.

“5. A Solo. The first Strophe of the German Hymn.

“6. A Sermon in English.

“7. A Solo. The Second Strophe of the English Ode repeated in German.

“8. Prayers before the Altar in English.

“9. Dr. Watts' Imitation or Paraphrase of the 19th and 132d Psalms:

“1.

“Where shall we go, to seek and find  
An Habitation for our GOD,  
A Dwelling for the eternal Mind  
Among the Sons of Flesh and Blood?

“2.

“The God of Jacob chose the Hill  
Of Zion for his ancient Rest;  
And Zion is his Dwelling still;  
His Church is with his Presence blest.

“3.

“Here will I fix my gracious Throne,  
And reign forever, saith the LORD:  
Here shall my Power and Love be known,  
And Blessings shall attend my Word.

“4.

“Here I will meet the hungry Poor,  
And fill their Souls with living Bread,  
Sinners that wait before my Door,  
With sweet Provision shall be fed.

“5.

“Girded with Truth and cloathed with Grace  
My Priests, my Ministers, shall shine,  
Not Aaron in his costly Dress  
Made an Appearance so divine.

“6.

“Sun, Moon and Stars convey his Praise  
Round the whole Earth and never stand,  
So when his Truth began its Race,  
It touch'd and glanc'd on ev'ry Land.

“7.

“Nor shall his spreading Gospel rest,  
 ‘Till thro’ the World his Truth has run,  
 ‘Till Christ has all the Nations blest,  
 That see the Light or feel the Sun.

“10. An Ode in German.

“11. A Collection for the Benefit of the Institution.

“The Procession to return to the Court House in the foregoing Order.”

We do not know who was the author of the ode which appears in the English program. The German poetical compositions were undoubtedly written by Dr. Helmuth, and are, we think, of a superior order. Though it might serve no useful purpose to reproduce these poems in the original, the following stanza is not without interest as containing a direct reference to Benjamin Franklin:

“Komm und besuche, du Heiland der Menschen,  
 Deine Frankline, dir heute geweiht,  
 Sie sey die würdige Tochter des Greisen,  
 Dessen Erkenntnisz die Staaten verneut,  
 Höre, wir singen in betenden Weisen,  
 Komm und beziehe

FRANKLINEN!

Ja eigne sie heut.”

This stanza may be roughly rendered:

“Come Thou and visit, O Saviour of Mankind,  
 Franklinia, which this day thy blessing awaits,  
 May she deserve to be known as the daughter  
 Of the sage who renews the union of States.  
 Hear us, O Lord, while we sing as we pray.  
 Come Thou and dwell with

FRANKLINIA,

Accept her to-day!”

Even with the imperfect data at our command it might be possible to paint a picture of some of the events of the one great day in the history of Franklin College. It would not be difficult to secure portraits of many of the eminent men who dignified the occasion by their presence. Unfortunately there were no reporters in those days, and the accounts contained in the papers of the times are exceedingly meagre. There is, in fact, so far as we know but one comparatively full account of the proceedings of the day, and this, though anonymous, was certainly written by Dr. Rush. It appeared on the same day, June 13, 1787, in both the *Pennsylvania Gazette* and the *Pennsylvania Advertiser*, and a literal translation was published in the *Philadelphische Correspondenz* of the 19th of the same month. This article consists of two parts which seem at first to be separate contributions, but they are internally connected and were evidently prepared by the same hand. The following has been transcribed from the *Pennsylvania Gazette*:

“LANCASTER, June 8, 1787.

“Tuesday last being appointed by the charter of the German College for the first meeting of the Trustees, they assembled at ten o'clock at the Court House and unanimously elected:

“The Rev. Henry Muhlenberg, Principal of the College;

“The Rev. William Hendel, Vice-Principal;

“The Rev. Frederick Valentine Melsheimer,<sup>1</sup> Professor of the Latin, Greek and German languages;

“Mr. William Reichenbach, Professor of Mathematics;

“And the Rev. Joseph Hutchins, Professor of the English language and Belles Lettres.

<sup>1</sup> In the original article the name of Dr. Hendel is misspelled “Handell” and that of Professor Melsheimer appears as “Miltzeimer.”



“The next day the Faculty of the College, followed by the Trustees, the Clergy of the German Reformed Cœtus and the Lutheran Synod, the officers of all the religious societies in the town, and many other respectable citizens, proceeded in procession from the Court House to the Lutheran church, where the Rev. Mr. Weiberg opened the divine service with an excellent prayer, suited to the occasion. Afterwards the Rev. Mr. Muhlenberg delivered an elegant discourse in the German language, in which he recommended in strong terms the necessity of human learning to his German fellow-citizens, and showed its influence upon religion, government, manners and the various professions and occupations of man. This discourse was followed by one in English, in which the same subjects were handled with great ingenuity by the Rev. Mr. Hutchins. Several hymns composed and hymns chosen for the occasion, in German and English, were sung (accompanied with the organ) in a manner that pleased and affected everybody. The whole was concluded with a well adapted prayer by the Rev. Mr. Herbst, Minister of the Moravian church of this town, to the great satisfaction and entertainment of a very crowded audience.

*“Extract from a letter from Lancaster, dated June 7.*

“We were yesterday gratified with a scene to this part of Pennsylvania entirely new, and which is both grand and important—I mean the consecration and dedication of a Seminary of Learning.

“On this occasion the people assembled from all parts of the adjacent country, to the amount of some thousands. The ceremony was calculated to excite in the minds of the very crowded audience the most agreeable emotions. The whole was conducted with a degree of decorum and splendor which I cannot find words to describe. But a circumstance which must be truly grateful to the mind of every good man, justly

deserves to be mentioned. It was a spectacle beautiful in itself, and which we may with certainty pronounce no age or country, nor any set of people, ever beheld before. On the same day, in the same church, and to the *same* set of Christians, the ministers of different religious persuasions successively joined in the worship and adoration of the Supreme Being! a type, however small, of the glorious reign of the Messiah which we are promised will one day come.

“The music was well adapted to the solemn occasion, and was performed in a masterly manner. The principal who, I am told (for I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with him)<sup>1</sup> is a man of extensive learning and great liberality of sentiment, and who is universally beloved, delivered a judicious and elegant sermon, and after some interruption of music, a sensible discourse in English was delivered by one of the professors. The subject of this last sermon was the general utility of learning, and was calculated to impress upon every heart the exalted principles of benevolence.

“All the teachers in the college are equally qualified with the principal for the branches of literature assigned to them. Mr. Hendel, the Vice-Principal, is a man of profound learning and of a most exemplary character. The Professor of the Latin, Greek and German languages is a stranger to this place, but comes recommended to us as a man of critical knowledge and taste in polite literature. Mr. Hutchins, who was educated in the college of Philadelphia under Drs. Smith and Allison, is greatly esteemed among us, and has taught a school here for some time past with great reputation. The Professor of Mathematics is said to be an able man in his way. In short, a cluster of more learned or better qualified masters, I believe, have not met in any university.

“I am informed that in the prosecution of the business re-

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Rush was not at this time acquainted with Dr. Muhlenberg, but they began to correspond in the same month and soon afterwards became intimate friends.



REV. GOTTHILF HENRY ERNST MUHLENBERG.

*Henry Muhlenberg.  
V. D. M*



lative to the institution the greatest unanimity and harmony subsisted among the trustees, tho' composed of gentlemen of a variety of different denominations and even of different countries—a striking mark of the powerful effect of a liberal education, which (with perhaps a few instances to the contrary) will enlarge the mind and fill it with the purest sentiments of patriotism and public spirit! And it may not be unjustly remarked that men of science never suffer *form* to impede the prosecution of any undertaking which may tend to the general welfare.

“From the establishment of this college a new era will commence in Pennsylvania. The introduction of the English language among our Germans, who constitute at least one fourth of the inhabitants of the State, cannot fail of being attended with the happiest consequences both to themselves and to the public, while their own language will hereby be preserved from extinction and corruption by being grammatically taught in the college, a circumstance which will enable them to become a vehicle to our country of all the discoveries of one of the most learned nations of Europe.”

To this account of the “Dedication” we may be permitted to add a few remarks. Dr. Muhlenberg’s discourse was in fact a sermon, based on Ephesians 6, 4: “Ye fathers, bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” It was well prepared, according to accepted standards, but its exhortations were general and it contained nothing of historic interest. This discourse was subsequently printed, and a copy is now in our possession.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Eine Rede, gehalten den 6ten Juny 1787, bey der Einweihung von der Deutschen Hohen Schule oder Franklin Collegium in Lancäster, von Gotthilf Hen. Mühlenberg, Principal des Collegiums und Pastor der Dreieinigkeits Kirche daselbst. Auf Verlangen der Trustees zum Druck befördert. Lancaster: Gedruckt by Albrecht und Lahn, 1788.



The selection of the Rev. Joseph Hutchins to preach the English sermon was possibly a mistake. He was rector of St. James Episcopal church, of Lancaster, which was then a very small parish, and had been chosen professor of English in the new institution. It was naturally supposed that he was especially qualified to speak in the language of which he was an acknowledged master. It seems, however, that he was lacking in tact and unconsciously failed to be in full sympathy with the cause which he had been called to advocate. In a letter, dated June 25, 1787, Dr. Muhlenberg says: "Mr. Hutchins, I am sorry to inform you, is very ailing. He is a gentleman very fit for his business—only a little prejudiced against the Germans. However, that will wear off."

The sermon preached by Mr. Hutchins was an excellent literary production. The text was: "And the Jews marvelled, saying, 'How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?'" John 7, 15. Unless the utterances of the speaker were greatly toned down in the printed copy, this discourse did not deserve the sharp criticism which it received; but it certainly contained passages which were liable to misconstruction and might better have remained unspoken. Dr. Hutchins said:

"When liberal knowledge shall be more generally diffused it will open more extensive prospects in religion to the view of the different Christian societies, convincing them that the more restrictive their rules may be for confining their disciples within a particular pale, the more inconsistent they are with the universal charity prescribed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Men will then grow ashamed of keeping up unsocial and unchristian distinctions among disciples of the same master, founded merely upon old scholastic unintelligible tenets of

faith, ignorant corruptions of primitive Christianity, and traditional prejudices in favour of languages, forms, and customs, at best indifferent, and often destructive to Christian charity and social peace. Enlightened by the penetrating beams of science, Christians will fix the Bible as the universal standard of their faith, and being more capable of understanding its doctrines, will sacrifice all inferior considerations to the establishment of one Catholic church."

To such sentiments no valid exception can be taken, but it is easy to see how readily they might be misinterpreted. Dr. Hutchins was an Episcopal clergyman, and must have known that his election was not regarded with universal favor. The enemies of higher education had boldly asserted that its introduction would result in the establishment of a national church after the English pattern; and any remarks which might even remotely be understood as favoring such a purpose should have been carefully avoided.

In his argument for the general use of the English language Dr. Hutchins was even less prudent. The following extracts will show its general character:

"Let these schools be the vehicles of a more accurate and general knowledge of the English language. Whatever impediments you throw in the course of spreading this language in its true pronunciation and elegance among your children, will be so many obstructions to their future interest in private and public life, to their future eminence in the public councils of America, and to that national union with their fellow citizens of the United States which the charity of the Christian, the humanity of the philosopher, and the wisdom of the politician are anxiously wishing to promote. As the limited capacity of man can very seldom attain excellence in more than one language, the study of English will consequently

demand the principal attention of your children. . . . On the score of religion you can have no reasonable objection to the use of the English tongue, because it is undoubtedly as proper as the German for the conveyance of religious instruction to your children. The German may be studied as a secondary, useful language, and no English American would ever wish to oppose it in that view; for we must all allow a skill in languages to be frequently a *useful* and at all times an *ornamental* part of a liberal education; and I particularly regret that my own deficiency has deprived me to-day of much pleasure and improvement from my learned brother's German discourse."

In the course of time the correctness of the orator's views has become evident; but their utterance on this occasion was at least premature. It must be remembered that the larger part of the audience was composed of men whose chief purpose in the establishment of the new college was the preservation and advancement of the German language in America. They had hoped to found an institution in which the study of German would "demand the principal attention of their children" and English might be studied as "a secondary, useful language." It was a vain hope, but it might have been better to suffer them to learn the facts by actual experience.

Curiously enough Dr. Hutchins seems never to have realized the fact that he had made a mistake. After nineteen years—when he seems to have forgotten the exact date of its delivery—he published his address in pamphlet form,<sup>1</sup> dedicated "to the Germans and their descendants in the Borough of Lancaster, Pennsylvania." In a brief

<sup>1</sup>A Sermon preached in the Lutheran Church on the opening of Franklin College, in the Borough of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, July 17, 1787. By Joseph Hutchins, D.D., Philadelphia: Printed by Daniel Humphreys, No. 272 South Front Street, 1806, pp. 22.

introduction he stated that "previously to the opening of Franklin College" he had been requested by nine of the Trustees in the city of Philadelphia "to show that the College was founded for cultivating the English language as well as other literary purposes." He says:

"When the usual compliment of requesting me to publish it was paid me by the Trustees, I was discouraged by some particular circumstances from the publication: But as a great change in your opinions and my situation has been made since that period, and some of my friends encourage me to hope for the public indulgence of this limited performance, I take the liberty of dedicating it to your particular patronage, and of expressing my grateful acknowledgment of the many favors which I have received from the respectable inhabitants of Lancaster."

It is not easy to account for the publication of this address, so many years after the occasion that produced it. Possibly its contents had been misrepresented, and its author may have suffered from what he regarded as a burden of unjust imputations. Under such circumstances it was, of course, desirable that it should be printed; but remembering the conditions under which it was delivered it is easy to see that its general effect must have proved at least discouraging.

## CHAPTER V.

### A DEBATED QUESTION.

CREVECOEUR'S STATEMENT — FRANKLIN AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION — THE ABBÉ MORELLET — FRANKLIN'S LETTER TO HIS SISTER — HIS PRESENCE AT THE OPENING OF THE COLLEGE.

“Was Benjamin Franklin present at the Opening of the College?” At the Centennial in 1887 this question was frequently discussed. In the program of the Opening Exercises, in 1787, the name of Franklin did not appear, nor was it mentioned in the reports which appeared in the papers of the day. Franklin was at that time past eighty-one years of age, and was actively engaged in Philadelphia as a member of the Constitutional Convention. It, therefore, seemed hardly probable that he would have undertaken a toilsome journey to Lancaster to be present merely as a spectator.

Under these circumstances no one would have ventured to assert that Franklin was personally present at the opening of the College that was to bear his name, if it had not been for certain explicit statements in Duyckinck's “Cyclopædia of American Literature.”<sup>1</sup> In a sketch of the life and works of Hector St. John Crèvecoeur,<sup>2</sup> the author says

<sup>1</sup>See Vol. 1, pp. 174 and 175.

<sup>2</sup>Hector St. John Crèvecoeur was born in 1731, at Caen in Normandy, and died at Sarcelles, November, 1813. He was educated in England, and in 1754 came to America, settling on a farm near New York. In 1781 he returned to France, publishing in London, in English, his *Letters from an American Farmer*, which were afterwards translated and published in French. In 1783 he returned to



concerning his *Voyage*: "It contains much interesting matter relating to the Indians, the internal improvements of the country, agriculture, and a curious conversation on the first peopling and the antiquities of the country with Franklin, whom St. John accompanied in 1787 to Lancaster, when the sage laid the foundation-stone of his German college at that place." Turning to the opposite page we find the following paragraph, translated from Crèvecoeur's book:

"In the year 1787 I accompanied the venerable Franklin, at that time Governor of Pennsylvania, on a journey to Lancaster, where he had been invited to lay the corner-stone of a college which he had founded there for the Germans. In the evening of the day of the ceremony, we were talking of the different nations which inhabit the continent, of their aversion to agriculture, etc., when one of the principal inhabitants of the city said to him: 'Governor, where do you think these nations came from? Do you consider them aborigines? Have you heard of the ancient fortifications and tombs which have been recently discovered in the west?'" "

Then follows a long and interesting discussion of the subject which was thus introduced, but with this we are not now especially concerned. Our chief interest in the conversation is derived from the fact that it was held in Lancaster, New York, as French Consul, retaining his office until 1793. At this time he travelled extensively and in 1801 published in three volumes a work entitled: *Voyage dans la Haute Pennsylvanie et dans l'Etat de New York*. Samuel Breck, of Philadelphia, who saw him in Paris, says concerning him in his *Recollections*: "St. John was by nature, by education, and by his writings a philanthropist; a man of serene temper and pure benevolence. The milk of human kindness circulated in every vein. Of manners unassuming; prompt to serve, slow to censure; intelligent, beloved and highly worthy of the esteem and respect which he everywhere received."

easter on the evening of the formal opening of Franklin College.<sup>1</sup>

Of course, the occasion to which reference is here made was not literally the laying of a corner-stone, for the college had no building of its own until a later period. It was the laying of a corner-stone in a figurative sense; or, as it is expressed in the "Address to the Germans," "the beginning of an institution that was to be erected."

The presence of Dr. Franklin was at one time questioned on the ground that he was, from May 25 to September 17, 1787, a member of the Constitutional Convention, convened in Philadelphia, and that he could not well have been absent from his place. In reply it might be urged that Franklin was not one of the original delegates to the Convention, and did not appear there until the 25th of May. He was at the same time Governor—then termed President of the Supreme Executive Council—and was no doubt at liberty, more than others, to be absent from the sessions of the Convention for important reasons. It was never inti-

<sup>1</sup> At the request of the present writer the late Rev. Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg examined the French edition of Crèvecoeur's work, of which a copy is preserved by the Philadelphia Library Company. In a letter dated July 24, 1887, he says: "In the 2d chapter I found the same in substance with that given in Duyckinck, and the conversation of Dr. Franklin with one of the citizens of the 'ville' on the subject of the Indians of the country. The conversation is said to have taken place after the ceremonies. The words used by Mr. Crèvecoeur are '*la première pierre*.' Such an explicit statement with such details could not be questioned. No man, in the possession of reason, would attempt to deceive the world in such a fashion. Besides, in the other parts of his work, consisting of three volumes in this edition, he gives descriptions of our country with engravings which prove that he was an eye-witness of what he describes, and his truthful character. Still farther, all the books on bibliography represent him as a reliable author. Dr. Franklin was, therefore, in Lancaster at what Mr. Crèvecoeur calls the laying of the '*première pierre*' in the year 1787."

mated that his membership in the Convention induced him to neglect his duties as Governor of the State. On this subject we are not, however left in the dark. The records of the Convention have been frequently and carefully examined, and it is plain that he was absent from its sessions at the time of the opening of Franklin College. Perhaps we can do no better than to quote from the letter of Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg to which we have already referred: "I have examined Madison's, Elliott's and Yates' Reports, and one other the author of which I do not now remember. I find that Dr. Franklin is reported by one and all of these authorities as present at the Constitutional Convention on Saturday and Monday, the 2nd and 4th of June, taking part also in the proceedings, but there is no mention of his name or allusion to him on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 6th, 7th and 8th of June, but on Saturday, 9th, his name again appears. Here is a margin to render it probable that he was absent for cause. What other cause could be assigned than the one in which he was deeply interested, for which he had labored earnestly, to which he had contributed £200—an institution called by his honored name, and for the benefit of the Germans for whom he had been performing services in many ways, even to the publishing of catechisms and religious books in their native language. On these days, it may be said, there were no subjects under discussion demanding his presence."

On this subject it is not necessary to enlarge, as the fact that he was absent from the Convention at the time mentioned is now generally acknowledged.

Since the publication of the author's monograph on "The Founding of Franklin College" certain facts have come to our knowledge which would strengthen our posi-

tion, if that were necessary. Immediately after the Dedication Franklin wrote to his friend the Abbé Morellet, in France, sending him at the same time a pamphlet which was probably a copy of the Charter. In his reply, dated "Auteuil, July 31, 1787," Morellet says:

"In the dedication of your college in the county of Lancaster and the fine procession, and the religious ceremony, where were met together Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Catholics, Moravians, *e tutti quanti*, there was toleration in practice. I have translated the whole of the pamphlet which you sent me, and had it inserted in our *Mercury*."<sup>1</sup> We are unable to resist the conclusion that Franklin had given his friend a written description of "the fine procession and the religious ceremony" which he had witnessed when he visited Lancaster.

To add to the evidence thus gathered a letter was discovered, written by Franklin to his sister, Mrs. Mecom, of Boston, in which the philosopher expressed his intention of going to Lancaster, to be present at the opening of the new college. This letter was discovered by the late Dr. F. D. Stone, librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the fact of its existence was soon afterwards communicated to the present writer. Dr. Stone died suddenly, failing to furnish the college with a copy of this letter, as had been expected; but it was shown by him to Dr. John Bach McMaster, Professor in the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. McMaster's recollection of the subject is clear, and he has kindly permitted us to refer to him with regard to the letter and its contents. Though at the present writing the locality of the original letter cannot

<sup>1</sup>This letter appears in Bigelow's Edition, X., 399. For this reference the author is indebted to the late Paul Leicester Ford, of New York.

be determined, the fact of its existence may be regarded as certain.

The fact of Dr. Franklin's presence at the Formal Opening having been established, it remains for us to suggest an explanation of the silence which we observe in the publications of the day. As far as the Program is concerned it appears from Dr. Helmuth's letter that it was printed before the 19th of March; and at Franklin's great age he can hardly have deemed it safe to make engagements so far ahead, but when the time came he joined the company of eminent Philadelphians in their excursion to Lancaster. Though he may not have been strong enough to deliver an



FRANKLIN ARMS.

extended address, we do not read that he suffered his age to excuse him from the performance of official duty; and it was as Governor of the State, as well as patron of the institution, that he undertook this journey. Possibly, at a suitable place in the exercises, he may have spoken a few words, formally declaring the college opened; but the main thing was—as another has expressed it—that “he was present and *beamed* upon the multitude.”



Men rarely seem as great to their cotemporaries as they appear to subsequent generations; and if the name of Franklin does not appear in the brief notices contained in cotemporary newspapers, the editors probably did not regard the fact of his presence as peculiarly interesting to their readers. To them he was merely the most distinguished of a large company of prominent men. The only reporter for the press—so far as we know—was Dr. Benjamin Rush, who was next to Franklin the most eminent man in the State. May it not here be suggested that, in writing to the papers, Dr. Rush did not regard himself as especially called upon to increase the glory of his great cotemporary?

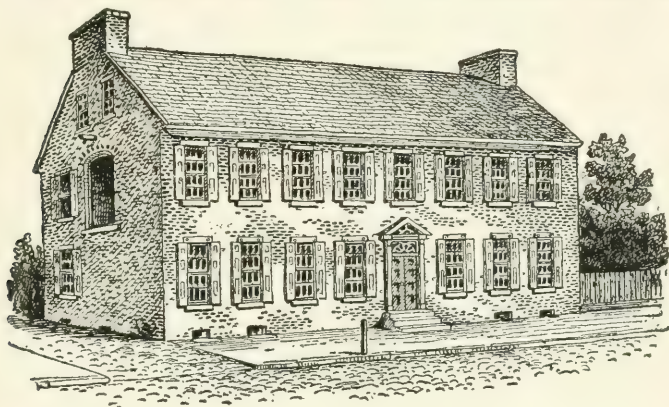
Undoubtedly Dr. Franklin was present at what has euphemistically been called "the laying of the corner-stone." Less than three years after this event he finished his career, and beyond his early liberality and patronage he could accomplish but little for the infant college. The fact of his earnest participation in this educational movement should, however, not be forgotten. It is an honor to the institution which he helped to found; and his honorable career may be held up as an ideal to many subsequent generations. Take him all in all, the world has had few greater men than Benjamin Franklin.

## CHAPTER VI.

### FACULTY AND STUDENTS.

#### THE PROFESSORS — HENDEL'S LETTERS TO DR. RUSH — LIST OF STUDENTS — ANNUAL FESTIVALS.

On the 18th of July, 1787, the work of instruction was begun in the "Brew House." Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg has preserved the tradition that the building was too small to accommodate the school, and that recitations were also held in the parochial school-houses of the Lutheran and Re-



OLD FRANKLIN COLLEGE, "THE STORE HOUSE."

formed churches. In the meantime, however, the "Store House" was put into proper condition, and was occupied as a college building not later than the Spring of the following year.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>In the recently published Life of Henry Harbaugh, page 179, appears a memorandum, written by Dr. Harbaugh himself, in which it is stated that Franklin College "was first held on Water Street, the second house above or north of Orange on the west side, in a stone building which was afterwards turned into a brewery." This

The Faculty of the new institution consisted of men of decided ability, of whom Dr. Rush, as already quoted, had justly said: "A cluster of more learned or better qualified masters, I believe, have not met in any university." Concerning the President and Vice-President—Drs. Muhlenberg and Hendel—we have already spoken at some length; but several other members of the Faculty were hardly less distinguished.

FREDERICK VALENTINE MELSHEIMER was Professor of Greek, Latin and German. He became the head of the German department, and may have been regarded by the students as the President of the college, though we can find no proof that he ever actually occupied that office. In the scientific history of America he holds a prominent place, having frequently been called "the father of American entomology."<sup>1</sup> Though there was no titular professor of

statement was made on the authority of Col. Mayer, who was at the time of writing seventy-nine years old. After carefully examining the subject we are, however, forced to the conclusion that Col. Mayer must have been mistaken. If a school was ever held at the place indicated it may have been the Select School which was held in Lancaster prior to the incorporation of the college, or possibly it was occupied at some subsequent time when the college building was being repaired.

<sup>1</sup>Frederick Valentine Melsheimer was born in Negenborn, near Holzminden, Brunswick, Germany, September 25, 1749. His father, John Sebastian Melsheimer, was superintendent of forestry to the duke. The son was educated at Holzminden and at the University of Helmstädt. Having been ordained to the ministry he was appointed Chaplain of the Brunswick regiment of dragoons and came to America in 1776, landing at Quebec. On June 3, 1779, he was married at Bethlehem, Pa., to Mary Agnes Mann. In 1779 he became pastor of five congregations in Dauphin county; was admitted to membership in the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1785; removed to Manheim, Lancaster county, and thence to New Holland in the same year. Having been elected professor in Franklin College in 1787 he resided in Lancaster for about two years. He

Natural Sciences in Franklin College, the presence in the Faculty of such men as Muhlenberg and Melsheimer might have afforded to students in this department opportunities for advanced study which could hardly have been found elsewhere in America.

WILLIAM REICHENBACH, Professor of Mathematics, was born January 26, 1749, in Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, Germany; and died in Lancaster, May 15, 1821. Concerning his early life little is known; but he was thoroughly educated at Marseilles,<sup>1</sup> France, and elsewhere. In 1785 he left Germany, and after spending some time in travel arrived in America. Having been chosen a professor in Franklin College he was present on the first day of the first session, and made the earliest record of students, which is still extant. Even at this early date he wrote English correctly, as appears from the records of the college; but his private memoranda were frequently in Latin. He seems to have served as treasurer of the Faculty.

was elected pastor of the Lutheran Church of Hanover, Pa., August 19, 1789, and served that charge until his death, June 30, 1814.

Professor Melsheimer was a voluminous author. Among his theological writings was a *Reply to Thomas Paine* which was highly appreciated. It was, however, as a scientist that he achieved the highest distinction. His *Insects of Pennsylvania*, published in 1806, contained a description and classification of 1,363 species of beetles and was the first work of its kind ever published in America. It was succeeded by a more extensive work, entitled *American Entomology, or Description of the Insects of North America*, Philadelphia, 1810. His entomological work was continued by his sons, who added largely to his collection which is now part of the Agassiz collection of Harvard University. Schierenbeck says: "Melsheimer was a highly cultured and many sided scholar who sympathized with everything that was useful and beautiful."

For much of this information the author is indebted to Dr. J. A. Melsheimer, of Hanover, Pa. See also *Halle'sche Nachrichten* and Schierenbeck's *Lives of Lutheran Ministers*.

<sup>1</sup> Professor S. S. Rathvon, in Harris's *Biographical History*.

How long Professor Reichenbach continued in the service of the college we cannot certainly say; but it is most probable that he nominally retained his professorship to the end of his life. As late as 1819—two years before his death—he was directed, with two members of the Board, “to have a room prepared for a library.”<sup>1</sup> He bequeathed a collection of books—mostly Latin folios and quartos—to Franklin College; and a list of these volumes, in Professor Reichenbach’s autograph, is in possession of the institution. These books—about seventy in number—no doubt constituted the nucleus of the college library. The first volume on the list is entitled: “Manuscript Records of the Transactions and the Accounts of the Federal Society for supporting a school in Lancaster, 1791.” This precious document, alas! is no longer to be found.

Soon after Reichenbach’s arrival a German nobleman, Heinrich von Bülow, settled in Lancaster. Von Bülow was an enthusiastic Swedenborgian, and through his influence Professor Reichenbach, who had previously been a Moravian, publicly embraced the doctrines of the great mystic philosopher. After the return of Von Bülow to Europe Reichenbach was for many years the leader of the little band of “Receivers” which had been organized in Lancaster, and wrote extensively in behalf of the new doctrine. His best known work is “Agathon” which appeared in English and German.<sup>2</sup> Though the English version modestly claims that its substance is “extracted from the voluminous writings of an eminent and

<sup>1</sup> Minutes of the Board, page 25.

Agathon on Divine Worship. *Translated from the German original Manuscript.* Lancaster, Joseph Ehrenfried, 1812.

Agathon über Wahren Gottesdienst. *Ursprünglich Deutsch in Pennsylvanien geschrieben.* Lancaster, Joseph Ehrenfried, 1813.



enlightened scribe of the Lord"—probably Baron Von Bülow—the two versions differ greatly, and it is evident that a large part is original with Reichenbach.

Another book which bears traces of Reichenbach's hand is an edition of Swedenborg's "Commentary on the Twenty-fourth Chapter of Matthew," published in Hanover, Pennsylvania, in 1806, by William D. Lepper. There is also a History of the Destruction of Jerusalem, translated by Reichenbach and published by Ehrenfried in 1810.<sup>1</sup>

Professor Reichenbach was married in Lancaster to Elizabeth Graeff and they had several children. He became a prominent citizen, and after the college failed to provide him with an adequate income was widely known as an accomplished surveyor. Professor Rathvon says: "Reichenbach was an extensive writer, and at his death left a large mass of manuscript, which was never utilized, and finally became extinct through age, mould and mice." His tombstone bears the following curious and thoroughly Swedenborgian inscription:

"By a process which we call death the earthly part sunk here precipitated;

The nobler part, by our good Lord, rose heavenly sublimated."

Concerning the Reverend Joseph Hutchins we have little information besides that which has already been given. He became Rector of St. James, Lancaster, in 1783, and also taught a private school. When he resigned his professorship, in June, 1788, he published an advertisement which we reproduce exactly as it appeared, capitals and all:

<sup>1</sup>The books here mentioned are in the library of the author. Minute research would probably reveal others, for Reichenbach was for many years Ehrenfried's chief literary adviser and assistant.

## “NOTICE.

“The Subscriber finding himself totally discouraged from staying in Lancaster, and unwilling to leave it with an unfavorable Opinion of the Punctuality or Honesty of any Individual, will be exceedingly obliged to those who are indebted to him for the schooling of their Children, to pay him in the Course of the present Month. His sole Dependence for his hard earned Money will be the Honor and Generosity of his Debtors; for he will sooner lose it than have recourse to legal Compulsion. If there are any too poor to pay him, a confession of their Inability will produce them a Receipt in full.

“JOSEPH HUTCHINS.

“June 3, 1788.”

Dr. Hutchins removed from Lancaster to Philadelphia, and subsequently became an influential clergyman. At this time, however, his circumstances can hardly have been encouraging; for in a letter to Judge Yeates, dated Philadelphia, September 20, 1788, he declared that he had “no resource but to solicit the equitable kindness of Franklin College.”

Immediately after the resignation of Dr. Hutchins the Board advertised for a successor, and William Stewart, A.M., was chosen in the following month. In 1789 he conducted public examinations in the college building, and on July 30, 1790, it is incidentally stated in the minutes that the meeting of the Board was held in Mr. Stewart’s recitation room. On January 1, 1792, we find the Board once more directing an advertisement “in order to obtain a good and able teacher of the Latin and English languages in the college.” This was evidently soon after Professor Stewart’s resignation.

In brief, little is known concerning this professor, ex-

cept what is contained in the following letter of recommendation from Dr. Rush, of which a copy is found in the records:

“PHILADA., July 13, 1788.

“*Dear Sir,*

“The bearer of this letter, Mr. Stewart, has been invited by your advertisement to offer himself as a Master of the English and Latin School in Franklin College. He brings letters to this city from Ireland which speak in high terms of his moral character. His diploma and other certificates from the College of Glasgow in Scotland bear ample testimony to his literary qualifications. I hope he will suit the college and that you and he will long be happy together.

“I lament that I had not the pleasure of seeing Dr. Muhlenberg last week. I did not know that he was in town till he had left it. Remember Mr. Tench Coxe. His zeal and abilities render him a most worthy and suitable instrument to advance the interest of the Germans in Pennsylvania.

“With respectful compliments to your brother, Mr. Yeates, Mr. Chambers, Dr. Muhlenberg and all the members of the Board,

“I am, Dear Sir,

“Yours sincerely,

“BENJN. RUSH.”

“JOHN HUBLEY, Esq.”

In the meantime Muhlenberg and Hendel labored together harmoniously as Principal and Vice-Principal. Immediately after the opening of the school Dr. Rush had written to both these gentlemen, delicately inquiring whether denominational differences might not interfere with their work. In his reply, dated June 25, 1787, Dr. Muhlenberg says:

“We have hitherto lived in the most friendly manner together, and though we differ in some little points in divinity

and politics, I think in science and languages and the management of the college we shall agree very well. The jealousy is chiefly among the common people, and is seldom observed among the more enlightened."

Dr. Hendel's letter is not quite so clear, though it is perhaps sufficiently intelligible. The writer was older than his colleague, to whom he referred in terms of the highest respect, but he could not help feeling that he had been placed in a position in which he could exert but little influence. We shall not attempt to remove obscurities, but will give the letter as it was written:

"LANCASTER, August 8, 1787.

"Dear Sir,

"Having now on account of my circumstances given up the thought of going to Philadelphia this summer, I take this opportunity to acknowledge your favor of the 15th of June.

"You were informed, I suppose, that the college hath been opened last month and from present prospects I hope with good success. It is quite necessary that we must endeavor to collect money for carrying on the Institution. I make no doubt that the subscription on our side will *ceteris paribus* not be behind those of other denominations.

"It was not from jealousy but from a sensation common to all men my uneasiness took its rise. Regard is always had to seniority in such cases, and deviation from this rule hardly ever fails to produce disadvantageous reflections. It had been intimated to me very early that the institution would fail if the first principal was not chosen from the Lutherans; this induced me to think that something more was intended by it than to give a proof of regard for a venerable minister who had zealously devoted his talents and his time to the service of the church. This added to the foregoing hindered me from sacrificing my feelings to the great esteem I have for the reverend father and his respectable family.

“Relying, however, on the gracious assistance of God I have resolved to accept what has or will be entrusted to me, and as far as I am enabled to discharge it faithfully.

“Your solemn assurance gives new life to the expectation I entertained, that you with Dr. White and the other trustees will be careful that the spirit as well as the letter of the Charter will be duly attended to. I think it the more necessary as the present proceedings will set precedents for future times.

“May the merciful father of light kindle in every one of us a flame of holy desire to join hearts and hands for promoting through this Institution the glory of His name and the happiness of our fellow Christians.

“I am with unfeigned respect,

“Sir, your most humble servant,

“WM. HENDEL.”<sup>1</sup>

The College of New Jersey at Princeton, at its annual commencement in 1787 conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity on Helmuth, Weiberg, Muhlenberg and

*W. Hendel*  
*W. E. pres.*

Hendel. This was a very unusual honor and indicated high appreciation of the part which these gentlemen had taken in the establishment of Franklin College. In this connection the following letter from Dr. Hendel to Dr. Rush may be worthy of preservation:

<sup>1</sup> The original of Hendel's letters here quoted are among the Rush papers. They are believed to be the only letters written by Hendel in the English language now extant, and have surprised us by their fluency in what was to him a foreign language. At a comparatively early age the writer had suffered from a paralytic stroke which caused his hand to tremble—reminding us of the signature of Stephen Hopkins attached to the Declaration of Independence—but his manuscript is neat and can be easily read.



“LANCASTER, October ye 8th, 1787.

“*Dear Sir,*

“The information you were pleased to communicate to me in your Favour of the 29th ult. was quite unexpected. I return my sincere thanks for your friendly congratulations. Your generous Friendship towards me hath certainly been the cause of using your connexion and influence with the venerable gentlemen of the College of New Jersey to receive me, who is not personally acquainted with them, among the number of their graduates.

“As I observe that the manner of proceeding in this case differs from that which is usual with us, give me therefore leave to make a confidential request, that you would be so kind as to inform me when and how it might be proper to make an acknowledgment to the College. Your compliance with this request will add great obligations to the unfeigned respect and high esteem that is entertained by

“Your most obedient servant,

“WM. HENDEL.”

In a letter written in April, 1788, by the Rev. Frederick Delliker to the “Fathers” in Holland, in behalf of the Reformed Cœtus, we find the following interesting passage.

“We are encouraged by the fact that the College of New Jersey has conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity on Messrs. Hendel and Weyberg, and by the establishment of a German college in Lancaster. In order that you may understand the origin and arrangement of this very useful institution, I enclose the Charter which has been granted by our honorable Assembly. I have nothing further to mention, except that the institution since its solemn inauguration on the 6th of June, 1787 (of which occasion I also enclose a printed program), has been conducted by its appointed teachers and professors, of whom Domine Hendel is Vice-Principal, and has enjoyed a tolerably encouraging degree of prosperity.”

In so far as the number of students was concerned the institution was certainly sufficiently prosperous. It was, however, found necessary, during the first year, to divide the college into two departments, German and English. It was probably this fact that suggested the remark of a correspondent of the Lancaster *Unpartheyische Zeitung* of October 5, 1787: "The English and Germans can never work together. The one says Shibboleth, the other says Sibboleth."

The German Department is known to have consisted chiefly of advanced students, but does not seem to have been very well attended. It was under special charge of Professor Melsheimer who reported to the Board that from October 17, 1788, to January 17, 1789, he had fourteen students.<sup>1</sup> In the previous year the number was probably

<sup>1</sup> The following list, signed by Professor Melsheimer has recently been discovered:

"Names of Students instructed in the College from October 17, 1788, to January 17, 1789:

1. Peter Roth (Rhoads), Greek, Latin, History Geography, Correspondence.
2. John Neuman, Greek, Latin, History, Geography, Correspondence, Mathematics, Composition.
3. Abram Hendel, ditto.
4. John Faber, ditto.
5. Henry Muhlenberg, History, Geography, Correspondence, Mathematics, Composition.
6. Frederick Muhlenberg, ditto.
7. George Hendel, ditto.
8. Carl Melsheimer, ditto.
9. John Schaffner, Latin, German, Mathematics and Composition.
10. Ludwig Schmidt, Will be admitted next Monday; to be instructed in the Sciences.
11. Jacob Müller, German, Reading, Composition, Mathematics.
12. Valentine Host, ditto.
13. Henry Muhlenberg, ditto.
14. Ernst Melsheimer, ditto."

greater, but of this department we have no complete records. The English Department was more successful. It was evidently a somewhat miscellaneous school, consisting of boys and girls of various grades of proficiency. In fact it was a high-school rather than a regular college. On the first floor of the college building there were three large rooms which were separated by folding-doors that could be opened as occasion demanded; but it is to be feared that those that divided the Germans from the English were not thrown back as often as they should have been.

We have a list of the scholars admitted to the English department of Franklin College during the first year of its existence.<sup>1</sup> This list was printed, in 1887, in the Centennial Catalogue of Franklin and Marshall College, but is deemed sufficiently interesting to be included in the present volume.

STUDENTS IN ENGLISH DEPARTMENT.  
1787-'88.

Samuel Bethel, <i>Latin</i> ,	Israel Cope,
John Bradburn,	Jasper Cope,
George Bird, <i>Latin</i> ,	John Doersch,
Mark Bird,	George Eicholtz,
William Coleman,	Jacob Eicholtz,
John Eicholtz,	Michael Hubley,
John Eberman,	Henry Hubley,
George Eberman,	Samuel Hubley,
John Fichtner,	John Kagey,
Casper Fordney,	Jacob Krug,
Jacob Frank,	Henry Locher,

<sup>1</sup>This manuscript was presented to Franklin and Marshall College some years ago by the heirs of Professor Reichenbach. It also contains a list of bills sent out by Dr. Hutchins, and thus incidentally gives the names of many early patrons.

William Frank,	Henry Moore, <i>Latin</i> ,
Andrew Graff,	Frank Musser,
M. George Graff,	George Musser,
George Graeff, Jr.	Augustus Miller,
John Graeff, Jr.,	Frederick Miller,
Hyman Gratz,	Timothy Miller,
Richea Gratz,	William Mars,
John Gibson, <i>German</i> ,	William McCormick, <i>Latin</i> ,
Benjamin Grimler,	Frederick Miller,
Francis Hager,	Henry Muhlenberg,
William Hamilton, <i>Latin</i> .	Frederick Muhlenberg,
Ludwick Heck,	John Nagle,
Abraham Hendel,	Isaac Neaff,
George Hendel,	Daniel Newman,
Benjamin Henry,	John Newman, <i>Latin</i> ,
John Henry,	Jacob Offner,
Matthew Henry, <i>Latin</i> ,	John Offner,
William Henry, <i>Latin</i> ,	James Old,
John Hoofnagle,	John Old,
Edward Hubley,	William Old,
George Hubley,	Lewis Peters,
Christopher Reigart,	Henry Slough, <i>Latin</i> ,
Henry Reigart,	George Stoneman,
John Reigart,	George Swope,
Patton Ross,	Samuel Swope,
William Ross, <i>Latin</i> ,	Jacob Weidell,
Adam Rudisill,	John Yeates, <i>Latin</i> ,
George Shell,	Barton Zantzinger, <i>Latin</i> .

## FEMALE.

Susanna Bethel,	Mary Hoofnagle,
Margaret Coleman,	Rebecca Hoofnagle,
Susanna Frick,	Susanna Irich,
Elizabeth Graff,	Elizabeth Krugg,
Elizabeth Graeff,	Frances Lowrey,

Jasper Yeates Esqr

Dr to Franklin College

\$700

April 18. For 1<sup>st</sup> Quarters Tuition of John..... L.R.D.

Received this Account

W. Reichenbach.



Catharine Graeff,	Margaret Moore,
Mary Graff,	Mary Musser,
Mary Graeff,	Catharine Musser,
Sarah Graeff,	Harriet Musser,
Elizabeth Grubb,	Juliana Musser,
Catharine Hand,	Sophia Musser,
Dorothy Hand,	Catharine Reinig,
Sarah Hand,	Ann Russ,
Augusta Hubley,	Mary Sayre,
Charlotte Hubley,	Theodosia Sayre,
Juliana Hubley,	Mary Weaver,
Catharine Hoofnagle,	Mary Zantzinger,
Charlotte Hoofnagle,	Sarah Zantzinger.

Though we have no complete list of the students of the German department, we know that several of them afterwards became distinguished. Among these were the Rev. John Theobald Faber, Jr., the Rev. Dr. Jacob Miller and Judge Peter Rhoads. There is no proof that this German department was kept separate after the resignation of Professor Melsheimer.

It is not supposed that Franklin College ever formally graduated students or conferred degrees in the liberal arts. It was, however, for some years customary to hold an annual festival which in some respects resembled a modern commencement. In the *Lancaster Neue Unpartheyische Zeitung* for November 5, 1788, we find a communication giving some account of the earliest of these festivals. It purports to be an extract from a letter addressed by a gentleman in Lancaster to a friend in Philadelphia.

The following is a translation:

“You inquire concerning the annual examinations of Franklin College, and whether it is worth while further to

sustain the institution. On this subject I can give full information, as I was from the beginning to the end an interested spectator, and am glad to state that the exercises were equally honorable to teachers and students. They commenced at 9 o'clock A. M., October 17, and continued until 1 P. M. Dr. Muhlenberg opened with prayer. Immediately afterward two young orators invoked the interest and attention of the audience, and recommended the institution to their favor. This was done for the German students by Henry Muhlenberg, of Philadelphia, and for the English by Samuel Bethel. After these speeches the German class was examined. The pupils read slowly and distinctly, and replied very satisfactorily to certain questions in Christian doctrine. After this Peter Roth, of Northampton, delivered a German oration to the effect that arts and sciences are conducive to rational advancement, and John Yeates recited an English ode to the Deity. Next the class in English reading was examined. I was curious to observe whether our German boys could pronounce English well, and I cannot say that I observed the slightest difference, in this respect, between them and those who were English born, except that the Germans read more slowly and distinctly.

“This exercise was followed by two orations—one in English, by Edward Hubley, and another in German, by Abraham Hendel—on the theme, ‘How literary institutions may best be established.’ Then the German students were examined in history and geography, particularly in those of the United States. You know how important this subject is, and you will approve of the fact that an hour daily is devoted to it in the college. The ready answers showed that it was a subject of interest. Immediately afterwards the pupils of the English class were examined in English grammar, and they answered very promptly. Next came a young Latin orator, John Neuman. Whether it was the Latin language that affected me, or his gentle, cultured manner, I cannot tell. His beautiful

discourse, based on Proverbs III., 13, 14, interested me exceedingly. I am told that he is a young man who is distinguished by industry, talents and good manners, but he is the son of a poor widow. If I were connected with the German society of Philadelphia, I should venture to recommend him to its good offices. The worthy members of that society have done much good to the youth of Philadelphia; would they not be willing to extend their hand a little further?

“Besides this oration, another discourse in Latin, pronounced according to the English dialect, was delivered by Henry Moore. You are probably aware that the English patrons have their children instructed in English Latin by the English professor, the German professor teaching the language with the German pronunciation. The great difference between these two methods of pronunciation I observed during the examination of the pupils. The German Latinists translated a passage and freely answered questions in grammar antiquities and history, and I believe every unprejudiced judge must have acknowledged that, considering the time employed in study, the students had made remarkable progress. The English Latinists were of various degrees of proficiency, and translated from Virgil down to the simplest exercises. I am not sufficiently familiar with their dialect to pass judgment on their scholarship. They answered every question promptly.

“After these examinations there were exercises in declamation. Barton Zantzinger and Henry Schlauch recited English verses, and the exercises concluded with two pleasantly written dialogues. The subject of the first was, ‘The Advantage of Education for Mechanics.’ George Schaffner and George Hendel spoke on this subject, to the great satisfaction of the audience. The second dialogue treated the question, ‘Why do so few Germans give their children a good education?’ This dialogue was spoken by Frederick Muhlenberg, of Philadelphia, Jacob Miller and George Frick, and this concluded the examination.

“The attention of the audience, and their pleased expression of countenance, were certain signs of their satisfaction, and I feel sure that the college will receive their future support.

“After the examination Dr. Hendel, in the name of the trustees, thanked the professors, Messrs. Melsheimer and Stewart, expressed equal satisfaction with the students, gave the latter some wholesome advice, and commended the institution to the providence of God.

“As all this had been done in German, a similar address was made in English by the Rev. Mr. Herbst,<sup>1</sup> pastor of the Moravian church. Possibly I may soon send you copies of some of the orations and addresses, which I am sure you will read with pleasure. I trust you will continue to be a faithful friend of Franklin College.”

In the following year, 1789, the closing exercises were held on the 3d of July. From an article which greatly resembled the one which we have quoted, and was evidently written by the same hand, we learn that there had been “evident improvement since the last examination.” Oration were delivered in English by Messrs. Moore and Roth, in German by John T. Faber, and in Greek by John Neuman. The writer says: “The Greek classes are still rather weak. The English students translated passages from the New Testament, and the Germans rendered extracts from Lucian and from a small Greek chrestomathy, which has been introduced in the institution.” The report concludes as follows:

<sup>1</sup>This gentleman, it will be remembered, offered prayer at the formal opening of the college, June 6, 1787. A contemporary manuscript copy of that paper is in our possession. As it covers ten closely written pages one might almost be tempted to say of it, as *Æschines* did of some of the Resolutions of *Demosthenes*, that “it is as long as the *Iliad*.” It closes with a special intercession for “the noble Protector of this College, His Excellency President Benjamin Franklin.”

“When we consider the brief time that has elapsed since the founding of the school it must be acknowledged that much has been done, and it certainly deserves our warmest sympathy and support. It would be a great pity if—as has been suggested—the institution should finally fail for lack of funds. I am not willing to give up the hope that the German national spirit will finally awake, and that Franklin’s school will be properly supported. If this does not speedily occur the Germans of Pennsylvania will fail to know the things which belong to their peace, and a late repentance will not atone for their present neglect.”



## CHAPTER VII.

### EARLY TROUBLES.

LOCAL OPPOSITION — "HANS EHRLICH" — APPEAL FOR AID — DR.  
RUSH'S LETTER — MELSHEIMER'S REPORT — THE FATHERS IN  
HOLLAND — GERMAN DEPARTMENT.

At the founding of Franklin College it had been confidently expected that the Germans of all denominations would immediately gather to its support; but in this respect the founders must have been grievously disappointed. Though the Reformed and Lutherans and the "outside community" of the town of Lancaster were sufficiently sympathetic, it seemed impossible to inspire the country people with any degree of interest. The so-called "Sect-People" were apathetic, if not hostile; and, in fact, very few uneducated people appreciated the value of higher culture. No doubt the objections which were urged against the new institution were sufficiently stupid, but we cannot help regarding it as a mistake that some of its supporters rushed into print, and employed ridicule as a weapon of defense. "Hans Ehrlich" assumed the character of a farmer, and expressed himself in language which was all the more cutting because it was based on sentiments which actually existed in certain rustic communities. In one of his articles he says:

"I am told that Lancaster has been selected to be the seat of a German college. Possibly, it is intended to make the children wiser than the parents and that does not please me at all. I am not a learned man, but I have no occasion to

know more than I already know. My deceased father did not know as much as I do, for he could neither read nor write, and when he wanted to cipher he counted his fingers, or made crosses over the door. For all that, he was an excellent man, ate his pork and drank his cider daily with a good appetite, and died peacefully in his eighty-sixth year, having first bequeathed his entire farm to me. My two boys need not know more than I do, for the egg must not be wiser than the hen. My wife would like to send my son, Christopher, to college, for his mother's brother was a Master of Arts; but I shall have a word to say to that, for the husband is the head of the wife, as it is written in Ephesians."

"Sarcasm and ridicule," it has been said, "are weapons which may wound but cannot kill." Articles, like the one from which we have quoted, can have done no good. Their only effect must have been to change indifference into positive hostility.

That the question of language, and other difficulties to which we have alluded, were sources of disquietude is perfectly plain; but these might have been overcome if it had not been for the all-engrossing trouble of finance. Indeed, from our present point of view, it is astonishing that the promoters of the institution could have expected to accomplish their task with the means at their command. We have no present means of determining the amount of subscriptions; but we know that many of these remained unpaid, and that there were financial difficulties from the very beginning. On the 20th of September, 1787, John Hubley, Esq., Vice-President of the Board, wrote to Dr. Rush, pleading for immediate aid. On the same day the following circular was addressed to the members of the Board:

“LANCASTER, Sept. 20, 1787.

“*Sir,*

Agreeable to a resolve of the Board of Trustees, at a meeting held the 12th day of September instant, you will be so obliging as to forward the monies and donations subscribed within your district for the use of the College to Mr. Jacob Krug in Lancaster, Treasurer: And it is earnestly requested by the Board, that you will use every endeavor to procure such further subscriptions as may be attained by you for the advancement and support of that useful Institution, and forward them to the Treasurer with all convenient speed.

“I have the honor to be, with much esteem and respect, your most obedient and most humble servant.

“JOHN HUBLEY.”

The receipts from tuition were smaller than had been expected. To extend the advantages of the institution the cost of instruction had been fixed at the lowest possible figures: £1 per session for German, 50 shillings for German and English, and £4 for all branches. With regard to the actual receipts authorities differ; but the following memorandum, which was subsequently entered on the records, may be supposed to be authoritative:

First year produced cash.....	£200.0.0	
Arrears still due about.....	26.0.0	
	<hr/>	£226.0.0
Mr. Hutchins' Salary.....	£200.0.0	
Mr. Melsheimer.....	200.0.0	
Mr. Reichenbach.....	50.0.0	
House Rent.....	20.0.0	
	<hr/>	£470.0.0
Deficiency to be paid out of the funds.....	244.0.0	
	<hr/>	£470.0.0

At this rate it did not take long to get to the bottom of the purse. On the 22d of October, 1788, Mr. Hubley wrote to Dr. Rush:

"I wrote to you some time ago how poorly our college stands and how far we are in arrears; these arrears increase daily, and unless you gentlemen in Philadelphia will put your shoulders to the wheel, we must inevitably perish and that very soon."

It might be possible to prepare a consecutive account of these early troubles, but we believe it to be better, whenever this is possible, to quote contemporary documents. Though some of these may lack interest for the general reader they have a certain historic value, and to the careful student convey an idea of the character of the times which it is otherwise not easy to secure.

The following letter from Dr. B. Rush to Dr. H. E. Muhlenberg was in part read by Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg in 1887, at the centennial celebration of Franklin and Marshall College. The original manuscript is now deposited in the college library. It alludes to the financial difficulties of Franklin College, and is otherwise so interesting that we print it in full:

"PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 15, 1788.

"*Dear Sir:*

"I was much mortified in finding that a letter from you dated in June, 1787, by some strange fatality did not reach me till the 4th of this month. The sentiments of friendship and benevolence contained in it are of so warm a nature that even the length of time that intervened between its being written and received had not cooled them. I rejoice to hear of the harmony that subsists between you and Dr. Hendel,

and the zeal with which you are both actuated in promoting the great objects of the institution.

“I lament the languor that has infected our trustees in this city. I have tried in vain to bring about a meeting in order to collect our certificates and draw our interest on them. The present turbulent era is unfavorable to all peaceable enterprises; nothing now fills the mind but subjects that agitate the passions. Let us not despair. As soon as our new government is established, the public spirit of our country will be found to feed upon undertakings that have science or humanity for their object.

“The conduct of the minority of our convention, and of a majority of my old friends beyond the Susquehanna, determine me more than ever to look to my German brethren (indulge the term) as the future reservoirs and vehicles to posterity of a great part of the knowledge, virtue and religion of Pennsylvania. I rejoice in the part a great majority of them have taken in the great contest about the federal constitution. On them I rely chiefly to *out vote*, to *out work*, and to *out pray* the anti-federalists in our State. I hope you do not neglect to fill your gazette with federal essays, anecdotes and intelligence. Hall and Sellers’ paper is filled every week with them all. Newspapers form the principles and direct the conduct of the greatest part of mankind in all countries.

“There is no doubt now of the adoption of the new government by nine States before the 1st of June, and by twelve before the 1st of August.

“The constitution has been well received in England, and is much commended by the friends of America, especially by the great and good Dr. Price.

“Will not a letter of thanks from you and Dr. Hendel be expected to the trustees of New Jersey College for the degrees in divinity lately conferred upon you? It may be con-



veyed to them through the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, the President of the College.

“With compliments to Dr. Hendel, I am, dear Sir, your friend and humble servant,

“BENJAMIN RUSH.”

On the 27th of February, 1788, Dr. Melsheimer wrote an article for the *Neue Unpartheyische Zeitung*, of which the following is a translation:

“What is the condition of the College in Lancaster? Will the work be continued, or must its doors again be closed?

“As I am pretty well acquainted with the present condition of the school, I regard it as my duty to answer these questions as briefly and plainly as possible; partly to direct the attention of the German people in general to this institution, but also in part to indicate to its patrons and to the friends of the Germans the extent in which their philanthropic purposes have been attained.

“There are at present three teachers in the school who give instruction in the German, English and Latin languages, as well as in mathematics and composition. The number of scholars is one hundred and five, and of these there are twenty who are to be trained in the higher branches of science. From the beginning we have sought to remove obstacles that might interfere with the prosperity of the institution, and the cost of tuition has therefore been made as low as possible. What German who is in good circumstances can object to paying for his children annually 20 shillings for German, 50 shillings for both German and English, or £4 for all the branches taught in the course? Or who can regard the price of board, which varies from 25 to 14 pounds, as too high?

“Though this arrangement is of advantage to our patrons it involves the great inconvenience that the amount of tuition is not sufficient to pay the salaries of the professors, so that the deficit must be met by drawing on the general fund. The gentleman who has charge of the accounts has assured me that the amount received for tuition in the first quarter did not exceed 40 pounds, and in the second quarter was not more than 70 pounds. The three regular teachers are to receive salaries amounting to £450, and of this sum £250 must be supplied during the present year.

“From these data every one can easily answer the above questions. If the Germans of this country learn to love the arts and sciences; if their love for their country and for posterity induces them to increase the endowment by their contributions, so that a part of the expenses may thus be met, the College in Lancaster will soon be among the most prosperous institutions in Pennsylvania; if this should not happen —— [a blank]. But how could it be possible that our people should sink to such a depth of degradation? Should we not deserve to be represented as mean and contemptible, standing like nude statues before the world, with nothing to cover us, unless it should be our ancient honesty? No, my friends! let us show the whole world that the Germans of Pennsylvania not only have hands to labor, but heads to acquire all learning as soon as they have the opportunity of developing their talents.

“F. V. MELSHEIMER,

“Professor at the College in Lancaster.”

That the financial question was of paramount importance is evident from scattered notices in the papers of the day. As early as January 2, 1788, Professor Melsheimer advertised that he would privately teach German, “with a near (*sic*) knowledge of the best authors

of Germany. Price, 20 shillings per quarter." Professors Reichenbach and Hutchins also sought to increase their income by outside labor. In the *Neue Unpartheyische Zeitung* for March 12, 1788, a correspondent suggests that the professors might bridge over the financial difficulties of the college by accepting an annual salary of £100, instead of £200, as they have private means." The next number of the paper contains a reply, stating that the professors are doing the very thing that has been suggested. "One of them is working for one fourth of what had been promised him, and all are willing to make any possible sacrifice."

The resignation of Professor Melsheimer, in July, 1789, was a misfortune which, though unavoidable, was very serious. Indeed, it was currently reported that the college had closed, and from this time onward its patronage was almost entirely local. If either of the synods

*Henry Muhlenberg.*  
V. D. M.

had possessed supreme control, it is possible that arrangements might have been made to meet the deficiencies of income by special contributions from the churches, but the responsibility was divided, and each depended upon the other. There was a period of deep depression, so that, in November, 1792, Dr. Muhlenberg could write to Dr. Rush: "Our Frankliniana is much like the daughter of Jairus. O, for a commiserating hand that could raise her!"

In a letter addressed in June, 1790, to the authorities in Holland, by the Rev. Nicholas Pomp, of the Reformed Church, appears the following interesting passage:

“In reference to your inquiries concerning the purpose of the College in Lancaster, we have to reply, that the institution failed a year ago, because the professors no longer received their salaries in consequence of the prevailing scarcity of money. We therefore deem it unnecessary to furnish a circumstantial account of this institution to your Reverend body. We beg to say, however, that it has not yet entered our minds to dissolve the intimate bonds which connect us with the Reverend Fathers, and that our chief purpose in the establishment of this school was to have our German youth instructed in such languages and sciences as might render them capable of occupying offices in the republic, and that possibly also, if the school should continue, we might in future times educate young men for the ministry.”

The “Fathers” in Holland were evidently unable to understand the situation. On March 7, 1791, they wrote:

“We are surprised that the Academy has come to so speedy an end; and since the Reverend Cœtus professes its inclination to keep up correspondence with our synods we hope that, in accordance with the present acts of the Cœtus, its subsequent actions will correspond thereto, so as to prevent estrangement and unpleasant consequences.” Again, at the meeting of the Deputies, in March, 1792, the following action was taken: “The Deputies took the liberty of reminding the Committee on Pennsylvania affairs as to the erection of that High School, that this was not an institution of the church authorities in those regions, and thus the professors were not paid out of the income of the church, but that this High School was established by the State’s legislature of that country, and that the same had granted a parcel of land from whose proceeds the professors were to have their subsistence. Hence the Deputies do not understand how the

school had to fail on account of the non-payment of the professors, for which reason the Deputies desire further information, how to reconcile the one thing with the other; although they were otherwise not much pleased with the founding of the aforesaid institute, as little as the committee and the synods of North and South Holland, who had always disapproved of the erection thereof, and long held back as is evidenced by their acts."

The good Hollanders failed to comprehend that the relations of the college to the legislature were purely formal and that the gift of land was in those days a burden rather than a blessing.

Notwithstanding frequent announcements of failure, there is plenty of evidence to prove that Franklin College was not actually closed. The German department was not continued after the resignation of Professor Melzheimer; and this fact, together with the well-known financial troubles of the institution, naturally conveyed to the German churches an impression of failure; but the school was continued, though its original plan was necessarily modified. It became a local academy, rather than a regular college. In the words of one of its later professors, Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg:

"Its services to our people were humble and did not obtain public notoriety. It aimed to maintain a good classical and mathematical Christian school, or college; and this it did, under various forms of organization, until the time of its successful union with Marshall College."



## CHAPTER VIII.

### A PERIOD OF DEPRESSION.

IMPERFECT MINUTES — COLLEGE LANDS — “THE SQUATTERS” — DR.  
MUHLENBERG’S DIARY — DR. JAMES ROSS — POOLE’S FRANK-  
LIN ACADEMY — PROFESSOR SCHIPPER’S DICTIONARY —  
DR. BROWNLEE — PROFESSOR NORR — PRESIDENTS OF  
THE BOARD — PROPOSED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

The early records of Franklin College are very unsatisfactory. Indeed it was not until 1818 that the Board of Trustees directed its secretary to procure a minute-book, and for some years after this date the minutes were not regularly recorded. Fortunately one of the early secretaries—probably Judge Dale—transcribed into this book a number of loose minutes and other documents which happened to be in his possession, so that the thread of history remains unbroken. Besides these a number of minutes of early meetings were found, some years ago, among the papers of Judge Jasper Yeates, but these contain nothing of special importance. From the minutes we learn that the meetings of the Board were regularly convened, though they sometimes failed to secure a quorum; that vacancies were carefully filled by new elections; and that the Trustees never wavered in their purpose to accumulate a fund for the endowment of an institution of higher grade.

The minutes, it must be confessed, are very uninteresting. For several years they are mainly occupied with matters pertaining to the collection of unpaid subscriptions to the endowment; then they turn to the almost

hopeless task of obtaining financial returns from the lands which had been granted to the college by the legislature of Pennsylvania.

These lands were for many years a source of trouble. When the charter was granted it was no doubt supposed that they would be located and surveyed at the expense of the state; but the law was otherwise interpreted by the authorities, and it was soon found that they could not be secured for the college without the expenditure of a considerable sum. In 1789 the Hon. William Bingham advanced £60 for surveying a part of the college lands, and this sum was in 1807 repaid to his estate.

Ten thousand acres had been granted to the college by the state and these were located in several widely separated tracts. There may have been some carelessness with regard to the recording of titles. In a letter to Samuel W. Morris, dated July 17, 1818, Mr. John Hubley says:

“Whether even the title of the college lands was filed in any of the counties where they lie I do not know. Originally they were situated in Northumberland and Luzerne counties, afterwards transferred to Tioga and other counties, and I had not always the care of them.”

In 1828 Judge Samuel Dale visited the lands of the college and presented an elaborate report, from which it appears that by actual survey there were ten thousand eight hundred and thirty-one acres and ninety-five hundredths, including the usual allowance for roads, etc., and that the lands were situated as follows: In Venango County, 5,279.95 acres; in Tioga and Lycoming counties, 1,200 acres; and in Bradford, 4,352 acres. By this

time, however, 4,771 acres had been sold for \$14,061.71, and after deducting commissions, \$12,655.55 were paid to the treasurer of the college. In describing the lands in Bradford County Judge Dale says:

“I found it to be thin soil and gravelly land, neither well timbered nor watered, thickly covered with oak, hickory, and maple underwood, some saplings of the same kind, and some scattering large pine trees.”

In some localities in Bradford County the soil was better and there was a heavier growth of timber; so that it was soon seized by “squatters” whom it was found difficult to dislodge. The following letter will give some idea of the state of affairs:

“STOWE, September 13, 1813.

“GEN. FRANCIS SWAINE,

“*Sir,*

“As I have not any acquaintance with Doctor Muhlenberg and do not know even the names of the other trustees of Franklin College, I shall state to you in order that you may communicate the information the following circumstances which if they have not already attracted the attention of the Trustees may be of use to the Institution.

“It appears by some drafts which I have seen that Franklin College owns seven or eight tracts of land on and near to Towandy in Bradford county, late Luzerne county. Such of those tracts as adjoin Towandy Creek have no doubt settlers on them, as it is closely settled on the creek from the river to the head of it. Many of these settlers have lived a long time on the lands and on an ejectment brought for a tract which I believe adjoins the College lands intend to prove twenty-one years’ possession. If they cannot do this

now, they will in a short time be able to do so. It is of importance, therefore, that the trustees should attend to this business, otherwise they will lose the lands. I may add that wherever there is valuable timber it is daily going and nearly gone, and no doubt every good freshet some of the lumber reaches Columbia or New Haven in the neighborhood of Lancaster.

"Dickinson College has lands adjoining and in the same situation.

"With respect, Yours,

"SAM. BAIRD."

In the records there are many references to the "squatters" and to the troubles which their presence gave. No doubt the annoyance was greatly due to the fact that these unbidden settlers were sometimes left for years in undisturbed possession, to be at last surprised by the Board in a spasmodic attempt to recover its rights. In a letter, dated September 7, 1815, Mr. Hubley says:

"There is no adage more true than this, that what is everybody's business is nobody's business—and it is equally true that in this country no concerns are more neglected than the concerns of corporate bodies, especially if not attended with a certain profit or interest, immediate or expectant, to the individual members of the corporation."

Under such condition it is not surprising that the payment of taxes on the college lands was frequently neglected until it was almost too late. On several occasions the lands were advertised for sale for unpaid taxes, and it was only by extra labor and expense that they were recovered for the institution. There was, however, a difference of opinion on the question whether the lands were legally taxable, but the frequent efforts by the Board

to be exonerated appear to have been unsuccessful. In writing to Walter Franklin, Esq., in January, 1816, Mr. Hubley says:

“Hitherto the lands have been expensive to the Trustees in respect of taxes, and no funds to defray them except what arose out of private subscriptions, the legislature never having granted a cent in aid thereof. In the Borough of Lancaster the legislature granted a brick building, which was built for the use of Public Stores, of 100 feet in front and 35 feet in depth, two stories high; this building has been constantly in use by the College for schools. The repairs thereof have also been at a considerable expense, such as new roofing, building chimneys and accommodations thereto; but the Commissioners of the county have never taxed it, knowing that no rent arises thereout and that all the benefit of it reverts to the public. If this building with something better than an acre of ground on which it is erected, and the lands now belonging to the College can be retained there can be no doubt that in time it will be of great utility to the state of Pennsylvania. The Board, therefore, make every exertion to uphold and transmit this promising seminary to the rising generation.”

Again, writing to Mr. Samuel W. Morris in 1818, Mr. Hubley says:

“It was always doubtful whether these lands were taxable so long as they remained the property of the College, the State having granted them for a public seminary, not for a particular county but for the use of the whole State, and no part of their property was ever attempted to be taxed in Lancaster county, though a considerable part thereof lies within the city of Lancaster.”



Having quoted so largely from the letters of Mr. John Hubley, it may be well to state that their writer was by far the most active and energetic member of the Board of Trustees. He was successively Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and President; and at times he seems to have practically combined these offices in his own person. In 1818 the Board took the following action:

“*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Board be given to our President, John Hubley, Esquire,<sup>1</sup> for the care and attention that he has so diligently and assiduously given to the interests of the institution.”

It is to be regretted that during this period we have no consecutive account of the internal development of the school. We are even unable to furnish a list of teachers, though the names of some of them may be found in financial accounts or in local publications. There were no annual reports of the President—such as have since become usual—and all the information we have been able to gather is of necessity fragmentary.

Dr. Muhlenberg kept a sort of diary, or common-place book from which some fragments of information may be gathered. His grandson, the late Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg, transcribed for the author such portions as seemed to refer to Franklin College; but he was forced to confess that in some places the manuscript was hardly legible and in

<sup>1</sup> John Hubley was born in Lancaster, December 25, 1747, and died there June 2, 1821. He read law under the instruction of Edward Shippen, and was admitted to the bar in 1769. Delegate, in 1776, to the convention which met to adopt a State Constitution; in the same year became a member of the Committee of Safety. In 1777 he became Commissary of Continental stores at Lancaster, with the rank of Major. Member of the Supreme Executive Council, and delegate to the State Convention that ratified the Federal Constitution.—*Harris's Biographical History of Lancaster County*.

others utterly unintelligible. The elder Dr. Muhlenberg seems to have had the habit of "thinking with his pen"; that is, while thinking, he took notes—sometimes writing only a word or two to indicate a train of thought—without caring in the least for style or chirography. We shall endeavor to translate several passages which may be found interesting:

"Aug. 6, 1789.

"What is to be the fate of our college?

"1. Thus far there are no funds at hand to accomplish anything; but ought not the scholars themselves to furnish some revenue if the school is properly conducted? How do those of our teachers support themselves who receive no public stipend?

"2. Instruction should not merely consist in teaching languages, but should include

"(1) Christianity—a thorough and complete knowledge of the subject. Here is a difficulty: the denominational differences.

"(2) History, Geography, Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

"(3) Ordinary reading, writing and ciphering should be a requirement. Writing letters.

"3. Pastors might spare us two hours each day, every forenoon. I formerly did so.

"4. Might not contributions still be collected here and there in the country?

"5. An ordinary Tutor might give instruction in reading and writing German, Arithmetic, Composition, Geography and History. Advanced scholars to receive instruction in languages in the forenoon for at least two hours.

"6. I prefer to teach Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Geography, History, Botany, Mineralogy or Dogmatics. Where? In one of the rooms of the college or privately?

"7. An opportunity for the Germans is now at hand—will it ever appear again? Or is it necessary to lay so much

stress on German? I think we ought to preserve our language for the sake of our religion. Ministers who preach German and English will in time be very necessary.

"8. Latin and Greek to be taught only to scholars of special talents and to those who desire to become ministers. Others had better at once be admitted to an English class—doctrine, etc., to be taught separately.

"9. A Tutor for the German language and literature and for those who desire to study for the ministry. Salaries to be paid individually; pupils to be arranged according to religious denominations—two or three hours each day. 1 hour, reading; 1, grammar; 1, composition; 1, mathematics; 1, geography and history.

"A tutor who can play the organ would be most desirable.

"I do not think we can continue our German class (department) unless we instruct many or all of the pupils gratis. English scholars should always pay tuition.

"Propositions:

"1. Teachers to be paid from the regular income of the school. House-rent alone to be allowed.

"2. Each denomination to raise collections for its beneficiaries; income of endowment to be applied to similar purposes; contributors may nominate a beneficiary. Subscribers retain the privilege of appropriating their gifts to students of the Lutheran or Reformed churches or of any other denomination of Christians. Faculty to determine whether students are to be admitted.

"3. The capital fund had better remain at interest. The sixth part of the income must be appropriated (according to the charter)."

(Here follows a sketch of a public appeal in behalf of the college which we do not deem it necessary to translate.)

"4. As soon as the funds permit tuition shall be free for all students without distinction.

"5. The tuition of pupils who do not learn English, without languages, to be only £3.

“6. If the college should fail, what then? As long as there is any money left it must not fail.”

Another extract from Dr. Muhlenberg's diary is somewhat amusing. We do not know the name of the “master” to whom it refers, and perhaps it is better that we do not; but it shows that Dr. Muhlenberg, as President of the institution, regarded it as his duty to look into, and correct, if possible, the faults of his subordinates. He says:

“Dec. 20, 1789.

“Our Latin master is not acceptable.

“1. He is too careless in dress—his poverty is not the only reason. He might brush his clothes and shoes and be more neat. That indicates little consideration. Whoever would get along in the world must be *κόσμιος*.

“2. He is hasty and noisy in manner, speaks roughly to his pupils, interrupts them too frequently and makes them mere repeaters of what he has said. He ought to be more Socratic.

“3. He is careless in domestic affairs; never makes himself useful; is ashamed of labor; therefore he is a burden to others and becomes contemptible.

“4. He has no worldly wisdom; is unable to make purchases; knows nothing except dead languages, and these alone do not suffice to help any man through this present world.

“*Reflections*: 1. Be neat in your attire.

2. Be not hasty nor noisy.

3. Take heed to your domestic affairs.

4. Learn to know the world.”

Dr. Muhlenberg does not often refer to Franklin College in his diary, but on the 20th of April, 1810, we find the following entry:

“In our College—at least in so far as I am concerned—more attention should be given

“1. To Chronology and Geography;

“2. Composition and Oratory;

“3. And Natural Sciences.

“*Orbis Pictus* is really, so far as style and thought are concerned, a good and useful book.”

It is therefore evident that, within five years of his death, Dr. Muhlenberg was still teaching in Franklin College.

In respect to the organization of the institution Dr. Muhlenberg's suggestions appear to have been generally accepted. There were practically three schools whose teachers were mainly supported by fees paid for tuition. One of the schools was nearly always a select school in which the higher branches were taught. The teachers were appointed by the Board of Trustees, and stood under the paternal supervision of Dr. Muhlenberg. The building was kept in good repair by the Board of Trustees,<sup>1</sup> and the teachers paid no rent for the use of their school-rooms. Some of them received an allowance for house-rent, but this was not always granted.

As has already been intimated, the minutes of the Board of Trustees give us little information concerning the professors in Franklin College during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The names of some of them are incidentally mentioned, but how long they served it is often impossible to determine. Among them were several men of decided ability, who became well known as successful literary workers; but it is a curious fact that concerning their personal history very little is known.

James Ross, LL.D., was one of the foremost classical

<sup>1</sup> In 1810 the sum of \$1,680.21 was expended in repairs and improvements.



scholars in America. He was a native of Delaware,<sup>1</sup> and was probably a member of the well-known Ross family of New Castle. He was born in 1743, and died in Philadelphia, July 6, 1827, aged eighty-four.<sup>2</sup> In 1784 he was chosen a member of the original faculty of Dickinson College, but as early as 1796 had removed to Chambersburg, where he conducted the Chambersburg Academy. There he published the first edition of his celebrated Latin Grammar, which was for many years almost exclusively used in the classical schools of this country. Subsequent editions were published while he taught in Lancaster, and in these he was careful to state on the title-page that he was professor of Ancient Languages in Franklin College. He came to Lancaster in 1801 and remained here until 1809. The author has seen a letter addressed by him, in 1806, to Judge Jasper Yeates in which he invites him to be present at the annual examinations of "our little college."

Professor Ross published several additional text-books which were highly appreciated. Among these were a Greek Grammar<sup>3</sup> and an edition of the Colloquies of Corderius. He also translated the "Shorter Catechism" into Latin. Dr. Theodore Appel gives some account of a discussion between Professor Ross and the Rev. Dr. C. L. Becker<sup>4</sup>—a dispute which began on the street and

<sup>1</sup> *History of Franklin County*, by Samuel P. Bates.

<sup>2</sup> He was buried in the graveyard of the old Ranstead Court Church, but when the property was sold his remains were removed to Carlisle for reinterment.

<sup>3</sup> *Historical Magazine*, 1862.

<sup>4</sup> Christian L. Becker, D.D. (1756-1818), was, from 1806 to 1818, pastor of the Reformed Church of Lancaster. He was the author of a volume of sermons.

ended in the newspapers. For some now forgotten reason they began an earnest discussion, but found it difficult to understand each other, as the one spoke German and the other English. Becoming more excited they began to speak Latin; but here the difficulty occurred that the pronunciation of one was British and the other continental. Finally they secured space in a newspaper and continued the discussion by publishing Latin articles which can hardly be supposed to have been edifying to the general reader. There appears, however, to have been no real animosity; for Dr. Becker's son, Jacob Christian—afterwards an eminent minister—remained a student in Franklin College and a favorite pupil of the professor.

In 1804 Professor Ross published a Latin Ode in memory of the Reverend Charles Nisbet, D.D.,<sup>1</sup> first president of Dickinson College. An original copy in possession of the author is dated: "Coll. Franklin, Lancastriæ, Kal. Mart. 1804."

After leaving Lancaster Professor Ross taught for some years in Philadelphia<sup>2</sup> and was also for a short time Pro-

<sup>1</sup> Charles Nisbet was born at Haddington, Scotland, January 21, 1736; died at Carlisle, Pa., January 18, 1804. He was in 1783 persuaded by Dr. Rush to accept the presidency of Dickinson College, which had just been founded at Carlisle, Pa. He was received in this country with expressions of great rejoicing. "Processions were formed, bells were rung, and addresses of welcome delivered in English and Latin. This auspicious beginning was followed by long years of trial and discouragement, incident to the building up of an institution of learning in an American wilderness."—*Wickersham's History of Education in Pennsylvania*, p. 397.

<sup>2</sup> In Philadelphia one of his pupils was the afterwards celebrated James Waddell Alexander. Dr. Alexander was accustomed to speak with enthusiasm of the extraordinary attainments of his teacher. While at school Professor Ross was in the habit of calling him "Alexander Magnus"—in facetious allusion, it is said, to his rather

*The Honble Jasper Byates from  
The author*

Ad GULIELMUM HAMILTON

SALUTEM.

Hos ego verficulos; in memoriam viri integerrimi, nec non et ex omnibus quos ætas præfens, annis multis per orbem terrarum tulit, doctissimi, tessellulam honoris, typis, ad Te, tuis mandandos, mitto; quippe qui te facilem et commodum meis, aliis occasionebus, haud semel precibus dedisti.

J. R. Ross.

In Obitum

Viri clarissimi CAROLI NISBET, D. D.  
Coll. Dickinſon. Præſidis, qui octodecimo  
Januarii, A. D. 1804, vita decessit.

TE quoque, qui nostris dignatus vivere, Nisbet,  
Finibus, eripuit mors! fera Te eripuit!  
Tu, tandem, fessus, metam finemque laborum,  
Docte, invenisti, corpore deſposito.  
Præclarus, turbas hominum, sociosque relictos,  
Morte redemptus, nunc despicias altivolus.  
Divitias quoque habes partas hic, munera culta  
Mentis nempe bonæ, quas dedit ipse Deus.  
Hæc autem, vestes, aurum, popularis et aura,  
Grata licet quondam, et fulgida, diffugiunt.  
Finito ergo opere, propter quod missus in orbem.  
Tempore et expleto, convenit ut redeas.  
Haud aliter servus, longas legatus in oras  
Qui, domino, rediit, jam revocante domum.  
Nuncius Americorum hic tristes pervolat oras,  
"Nisbet mortuus! Heu! doctus et ille perit!"  
Mentibus, ore, oculis, Studiosi (Academia plorat)  
Nisbet nunc quærunt auxilio ut subeat!  
Nisbet namque docens, vestigia, quæ sua, pressit;  
Non aliena sequens: legit at ille sua.  
Nisbet eos docuit falso secernere verum,  
Atque domique foris sedulus officio.  
Nisbet eos docuit rerum cognoscere causas;  
Nisbet et instituit quærere vera bona.  
O quoties, præco pandis cum themata sacra,  
"Vivito" dixi "nec sit brevis hora tua;  
"O felix, sortita Hunc, fausta Columbia, tellus!  
"Vivito Nisbet! nec mors fera Te rapiat!"  
'Fidite ne vestris: heu! vana opera omnia,' dixit,  
'Confugite ad JESUM, o si! frueremur  
Vivere si licuisset nunc, o si! frueremur  
Voce tua, aspectu, consilioque pio.  
O utinam vixisses! omnia namque videntur  
Rapta simul Tecum, votaue nostra jacent!  
Cecropidæ Anytique reum flebantque Platona.  
Nisbet, Te juvenes non secus atque gement!  
Vivet in æternum virtus tua, nulla vetustas  
Delebit famam, conspicuumque decus.  
De patria que tua fors si certabitur olim,  
Te volet esse suum hæc, illaque et esse suum.  
Nulla ætasque futura taceoit nomina Nisbet,  
Per terrarum orbem clara, negata mori.  
Coll. Franklin. Lancastria, Kal. Mart. 1804.

fessor of Ancient Languages in Dickinson College. He was twice married. His first wife, Rosanna, died April 13, 1788; his second wife, Catharine Irvin, died December 1, 1846, aged 82 years.

Dr. Joseph Smith says in his "History of Jefferson College": "The author [of the Latin Grammar], James Ross, a graduate of Princeton College, in the Fall of 1766—was a good classical scholar. His talents lay all in that direction, and he became a prodigy of pedagogical learning, though his knowledge of Mathematics and the moral and metaphysical sciences was but slender. Like the celebrated Rousseau, he never could clearly comprehend some of the simplest propositions in Euclid, and it was with some difficulty he succeeded in obtaining a degree of A.B., though he was, in after life, honored with the title of LL.D. He became an eminent teacher of the dead languages and in this vocation he continued till he was advanced in years, and old age disqualified him for his useful profession. But though of an obtuse mind for other branches of learning, he was pre-eminent as a linguist. We remember to have seen him when he was probably eighty years of age, at the first church in Philadelphia, of which Dr. Wilson was then the pastor. His seat was in the gallery; and before him he had fixed, on a little shelf, attached to the parapet or breastwork of the gallery, nearly a dozen of books—a Greek Testament, a Hebrew Bible, Concordance, Lexicons, etc. When the Doctor announced his Text, which happened to be, 'Come unto me diminutive stature; but it is possible that he rather referred to his unusual mental ability.

For much of the above information the author is indebted to Miss Martha B. Clark, of Lancaster.



all ye that labor,' etc., Mr. Ross immediately took his Greek Testament, turned to the passage, and seemed for some time to be earnestly studying it. Such was the man who wrote the Latin Grammar that was long used at Jefferson College."

In 1807 Franklin Academy was opened under the direction of Thomas Poole, Professor of Languages,<sup>1</sup> who had taught school in Lancaster since 1805. He was, we think, the successor of Professor Ross, but modestly preferred to call his school an academy. When he took charge of the school he issued the following circular, of which an original copy has been presented to the author by Mr. Rudolph F. Kelker, of Harrisburg:

#### FRANKLIN ACADEMY,

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

THOMAS POOLE, PROFESSOR OF LANGUAGES,

*In the Borough of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.*

In this institution are taught Latin, Greek, English, French, and all the branches of classical education; also History, Geography, the use of the Globes,<sup>2</sup> Surveying, Algebra, Geometry, practical and theoretical.

The classes are thus arranged and nominated.

LITTLE FIGURES,

SYNTAX,

GREAT FIGURES,

POETRY,

GRAMMAR,

RHETORIC.

<sup>1</sup> In Ellis and Evans's "History of Lancaster County" it is stated that this school was kept in a new building on South Queen Street. We think it much more likely that it occupied the building of Franklin College on North Queen Street, which we know was thoroughly repaired about this time. It is hardly possible that in the same small town there should simultaneously have been two literary institutions bearing the name of Franklin.

<sup>2</sup> Read Globes—an evident misprint.



## TERMS OF TUITION.

*Latin and Greek, \$6.67 per quarter.*

*Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and Book-keeping, \$5 per quarter.*

*Pupils in the class of Little Figures, that is, spelling and reading, \$4 per quarter for the first year. The additional charge for either French, Geography, Surveying, Algebra, or Geometry, \$2 per quarter.*

An able assistant is employed to instruct the pupils applying solely to the English branch of education.

## DISTRIBUTION OF TIME.

The school hours, from the 1st of April to the 1st of October, commence at 6½ and end at 7¾; again from 9 and continue till 12 o'clock, and then from 2½ and terminate at 5½.

From the 1st of October until the 1st of April, begin at 9 and continue till 12; and again from 2 till 5.

The periods of entrance are the 1st of January, the 1st of April, the 1st of July, the 1st of October; but any pupil may enter on any day, and pay up in proportion to the ensuing quarter.

No deduction will be made for any pupil who may quit before the expiration of his quarter.

A quarterly examination is held in the presence of parents, visitors, and other friends of literature. He who excels his class-mates shall be distinguished by premiums.

And he who, by his teachers and companions, shall be deemed to give the best example in moral rectitude is to be pre-eminently distinguished.

Every reasonable point of discipline will be practiced for the improvement of the young gentlemen, as well in their moral as in classical attainments.

This Academy is limited to 35 in the languages, and 40 in English.

Young gentlemen from a distance can be accommodated at the Professor's house, which is adjacent to the Academy, at \$30 per quarter, washing and linen mended included.

The greatest attention will be paid to such as are entrusted to the special care of the Professor, both in their moral rectitude and classical attainment.

Each pupil that enters this Academy must contribute his quota for fire-wood and for the rent of the school-rooms.

Everything that contributes to the rapid progress of the students in this institution will be attended to by the Professor. Hence the gentlemen, whose names are subscribed, will from time to time visit the Academy and examine the progress of the pupils.

HENRY MUHLENBERG, D.D.,	} R. R.
COLIN MCFARQUHAR, <i>Minister</i> ,	
JOHN HENRY HOFFMEIER.	
NATHANIEL R. SNOWDEN, V.D.M.,	
WILLIAM MONTGOMERY,	} Esq'rs.
ANDREW ELLICOTT,	
T. M. THOMSON,	
CHARLES SMITH,	
MATTHIAS BARTON,	
GEORGE DUFFIELD,	
GEORGE ROSS,	
JAMES HOPKINS,	
WILLIAM BARTON,	

In the records of these early days we find occasional references to teachers in Franklin College, but we have little precise information concerning their term of labor. Among the Rush papers there is a curious letter, dated February 14, 1794, from Frederick Ludwig Heimberg Drude, Director of Catharine College, Brunswick, Germany, in which the writer applies for the position of president of Franklin College. He explains in very tolerable English that he is a successful physician, and intimates that he might soon build up a medical practice, thus partly relieving the Board of the expense of his support. It does not appear that this letter was brought to the attention of the Board.

The following abstracts from advertisements in local papers are interesting for their references to Franklin College:

"Feb. 28, 1801. Mr. Doyle's Seminary will continue the ensuing summer and fall in Franklin College, as usual."

"August 10, 1804. The ladies of Lancaster advertise for subscriptions to repair the store-house, to render it a comfortable place for the accommodation of the several schools now taught in it."

Sept. 30, 1808. Nathaniel R. Snowden advertises that "the trustees are finishing the room for the accommodation of the Latin and Greek students in the college, and that he expects to move his school to that place in October."

On September 12, 1809, Benedict J. Schipper advertised that on the 13th instant he would open an academy "in Franklin College, permission being granted by the trustees." Where he came from we do not know; but from his minute acquaintance with the German language

*Recd the within of  
Rev. Mr. Ades*

*B J Schipper*

*April 1 1823.*

*21.50*

it may be presumed that he was a native of Germany. For many years Professor Schipper not only taught Greek and Latin, but had general charge of the grounds and buildings. In 1821 the Board purchased "a high arm-chair" for his recitation-room, and in 1823 he was reimbursed for sundry repairs made to the college-building.

Deutsch-Englisches und Englisch-Deutsches  
**Wörterbuch,**

Nebst einer

Deutschen Sprachlehre,

Und den

Grundregeln zur Aussprache für beide Sprachen.

Gedruckt unter der unmittelbaren Aufsicht des

Ehrwürdigen Doctor Heinrich Mühlenberg,  
 Pfarrer der Deutschen Lutherischen Kirche zu Lancaster, und

Herrn Benedict J. Schipper,  
 Sprachlehrer in der Franklin Academie.

In zwei Bänden.

Zweiter Band.

GERMAN-ENGLISH & ENGLISH-GERMAN

**DICTIONARY,**

WITH A

German Grammar,

AND

PRINCIPLES OF PRONUNCIATION

FOR

BOTH LANGUAGES.

PRINTED UNDER THE IMMEDIATE INSPECTION OF THE

REV DR. HENRY MÜHLENBERG,  
 PASTOR OF THE GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH AT LANCASTER, AND

MR. B. J. SCHIPPER,  
 PROFESSOR OF LANGUAGES IN FRANKLIN ACADEMY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

Lancaster:

Gedruckt bey Wilhelm Hamilton,  
 ...1812...

TITLE PAGES OF THE DICTIONARY.

In 1812 Dr. Muhlenberg and Professor Schipper joined in the publication of an *English-German and German-English Dictionary*—the first of its kind printed in America. For the times in which it was published it was undoubtedly a great work, and even now it has not entirely lost its value. It consists of two large octavo volumes, and is especially remarkable for a great collection of idiomatic phrases. At the time of publication Dr. Muhlenberg was advanced in years and greatly interested in scientific studies, so that it has been supposed that this great German dictionary was mainly prepared by Professor Schipper. At any rate the publication was a great credit to the college in the days of its infancy.

Professor Schipper is said to have spent his later years in Philadelphia; but the dates of his birth and death are alike unknown. That there is no extant biography of this eminent man is a fact which is greatly to be regretted.

Among the early instructors in Franklin College there were others whose connection with the institution deserves to be remembered. The Reverend Dr. William C. Brownlee—afterwards a very distinguished minister in New York—taught here for several months, in 1815, before he became rector of the academy at New Brunswick. The late Dr. John L. Atlee was one of his pupils. The following extract from the minutes of the Board, May 17, 1815, refers to his appointment:

“*Resolved*, That Mr. Joseph Clarkson, Samuel Humes and John Hubley be a committee to view the College and find a proper apartment for Mr. Brownlee, to teach the Latin and Greek languages, as well as the most useful branches of English literature; having respect to the apartment now occupied by Mr. Cassidy and Mr. Armstrong; that the ex-



pense of preparing the accommodation of the said teacher and that of Mr. Brownlee for tuition be discharged by the persons who employ Mr. Brownlee.”

Professors Cassidy and Armstrong we have not been able to identify. They probably belonged to families bearing these names which have been prominent in the history of Lancaster.

For the following incident we are indebted to the late Dr. John S. Messersmith: One of the early teachers in Franklin College was a young Dane named Thor T. Norr. He was a brilliant man and was highly esteemed by the community. After resigning his position he undertook a journey to the South; but at Norfolk, Virginia, he lost his life in a remarkable manner. A negro had fallen into the water and was in danger of drowning. Without a moment's hesitation Mr. Norr leaped into the water and swam to his rescue; but was himself drowned while attempting to perform this act of genuine philanthropy. We regret that we have no further information concerning the biography of this noble foreigner.

Though our knowledge of these early times is necessarily fragmentary, there are, as we have seen, certain names which stand out prominently in this period of depression. These are the names of Muhlenberg, Mel-sheimer, Ross and Schipper, which, with brief intermissions, constituted a succession extending through the first quarter of the nineteenth century. No doubt there were teachers whose names are now forgotten; but we may confidently affirm that the work of education was not suspended. The Board of Trustees maintained its organization and the financial investments of the college were well guarded.

The following gentlemen are known to have held the office of President of the Board of Trustees of Franklin College: General Daniel Hiester until his death, in 1804; John Hubley, Esq., Vice President and acting President until 1813; was elected President June 17, 1813, and served until his death; Rev. Christian Endress, D.D., elected July 27, 1821, died September 30, 1827; Adam Reigart, Esq., President *pro tem.*, 1827-1828; Rev. John C. Baker, D.D., elected June 11, 1828, and continued in office until his removal from Lancaster in 1853.

In 1818 it was proposed to extend the scope of the institution by the establishment of what was termed a joint theological seminary, representing the Lutheran and Reformed churches. As we understand it, this movement began in the Reformed synod which, at its meeting in Carlisle, appointed committees to confer with the Reformed Dutch and Lutheran churches on the general subject of theological education. The conference with the Dutch church had no important results—principally, it is believed, on account of the difference in language; but in 1819 the second committee reported that they had attended the Lutheran synod and had been very kindly received. There was a very general opinion that the old endowment at Lancaster might be utilized for the establishment of a literary and theological institution that would serve the wants of both denominations; and, indeed, so far as we can see, there was in those days no insuperable obstacle to the accomplishment of such a purpose. The committee appointed by the Reformed synod consisted of five ministers: J. H. Hoffmeier, F. Herman, W. Hendel, Thomas Pomp and S. Helffenstein. The chairman of

the Lutheran committee was Dr. J. G. Schmucker, who was profoundly interested and prepared an elaborate plan.

“The name of the institution was to be ‘The Theological Seminary for the Education of Pious Young Men to the Evangelical Ministry.’ There were to be two professors, one elected by the synod of each denomination, and eighteen trustees, also equally divided. Among their duties they were to ‘watch against the gradual introduction of error, and lead the students to a knowledge of unadulterated truth,’ but what this error and this truth are is not specified. A ‘Magazine’ was to be published by the faculty, to which the pastors of both synods were expected to subscribe, and for which they were to secure subscriptions within their congregations. The professors were to be members of the board, with both a seat and vote, except in matters of personal interest. Both synods were to make equal contributions towards the seminary.”<sup>1</sup>

A joint meeting of the conference was held in August, 1820, at the house of the Reverend J. H. Hoffmeier, in Lancaster, but the result was not entirely satisfactory. Dr. Endress was opposed to the plan and expressed his views in the most decided manner.<sup>2</sup> At the meeting of his synod he had said: “Let the Reformed people cook their soup on their own fire!” The phrase was frequently repeated and its effect may readily be surmised. At the conference Dr. Schmucker’s plan was read and debated, but Dr. Endress retained the document. As the latter had for years managed the affairs of Franklin Col-

<sup>1</sup> “History of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in the United States, by Henry Eyster Jacobs,” American Church History Series, Vol. IV., p. 323.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from the Rev. J. H. Hoffmeier to Rev. Casper Wack.—*Harbaugh Papers.*

lege it is perhaps not surprising that he should have desired to control its future policy.

After this conference the plan for the establishment of a union theological seminary appears to have been quietly given up. At their meetings in the autumn of 1820 the Lutheran ministerium and the Reformed synod each voted an appropriation of one hundred dollars for the support of Franklin College; but it was well understood that these gifts were chiefly made for the purpose of better securing their rights in the history and property of the institution. During the same year several of the classes of the Reformed Church took action on this general subject. The Classis of Lebanon expressed its regret that the plan for a union theological seminary had not been laid before it but was favorable to its establishment; the Classis of Zion was willing to coöperate if the plan was accepted by the synods, but preferred an exclusively Reformed institution, and suggested Chambersburg as a suitable location; and instructed its delegates to synod to exert all their influence in favor of the establishment of a Reformed theological school. The Reformed Synod accordingly, at its meeting in Hagerstown, Maryland, in September, 1820, adopted a plan for the establishment of a theological seminary, and elected the Rev. Philip Milledoler, of New York, to the professorship of theology. It was not, however, until 1825 that the seminary was actually founded at Carlisle.

The Proceedings of the Reformed synod and classes in subsequent years contain occasional references to Franklin College, but these are not generally important or interesting. The following extracts from the minutes

of classes may convey some idea of the divergent views which were then prevalent:

“WHEREAS, this Classis can conceive of no advantage to be derived by the German Church from Franklin College, in Lancaster; therefore,

“*Resolved*, that this Classis does not regard it as expedient to apply funds from the synodical treasury to this purpose.”—*Minutes of Zion’s Classis, 1823, Session III., § 13.*

“The Committee begs leave to report it as their judgment that our synod should under no circumstances relinquish its share in Franklin College.”—*Minutes of Lebanon Classis, 1823, Session II., § 4.*

From what we have gathered it may seem that at this period Franklin College was in a moribund condition; but it appears from the minutes that the Board of Trustees never lost hope. The funds of the institution were gradually increasing; a good school was maintained, and it was firmly believed that in due time an institution of higher grade would be established. The name and fame of the earliest patron were not forgotten. At a banquet given in the college on New Year’s day, 1801, in commemoration of the election of Thomas Jefferson to the presidency of the United States,<sup>1</sup> the following toast was offered by Governor Thomas MacKean and received with great enthusiasm:

“Franklin College: May her sons emulate the virtue and useful knowledge of the great man whose name she bears.”

<sup>1</sup> An interesting account of this occasion appeared at the time in the *Lancaster Intelligencer*, and was reproduced by photo-engraving in the issue of that paper on the 31st of December, 1900.



## CHAPTER IX.

### THE LANCASTER COUNTY ACADEMY, 1827-1839.

COUNTY ACADEMIES — STATE APPROPRIATION — A NEW BUILDING —  
SUCCESSIVE PRINCIPALS — LANCASTERIAN SCHOOLS — SALE OF  
THE "STORE HOUSE" — THE ACADEMY CLOSED.

In 1827 an academy was founded in Lancaster. It was not intended to be a rival to Franklin College—as has sometimes been supposed; but was founded and conducted by men who were at the same time members of the college board. Though actually independent, its relations with the college were so intimate that it deserves a place in this general history.



It had come to be felt that the college had failed to accomplish its original purpose. The synods had withdrawn their patronage; and the elements constituting the board were by no means harmonious. After the resignation of Professor Schipper the college-building was for

some time unoccupied, except by the janitor, who received his rent and a stipend of two dollars per month for the performance of duties which were by no means onerous.

For the first time in many years Lancaster had no classical school, and a number of the prominent citizens of Lancaster undertook to supply the want. For this purpose they could not employ the funds of Franklin College, but it was hoped that an academy might be founded by private subscription which would serve to bridge the chasm and prepare the way for further developments.

There was at this time an important educational movement throughout the state which, a few years later, resulted in the establishment of a system of public schools. The Legislature had in several instances made appropriations in aid of local academies, and it was believed that an application in behalf of Lancaster would not be refused. Though these appropriations were small, and were always conditioned on a fixed amount of local contributions, they led to the establishment of a number of local academies.

In Lancaster between two and three thousand dollars were subscribed. One of the original subscription papers in our possession reads as follows:

“We, the subscribers, believing that the establishment of an Academy in the County of Lancaster, under the conditions contained in the Bill now pending before the Legislature for the incorporation of the ‘Lancaster County Academy’ is not only desirable but necessary, hereby agree to contribute the sums affixed to our names respectively in aid of the same. The money to be paid to such person as shall be designated by the Trustees when demanded. Jan. 31, 1827.

Edward Coleman....\$150	Molton C. Rogers.....\$50
Wm. Jenkins..... 100	James Buchanan..... 50
Geo. B. Porter..... 100	Thos. G. Henderson... 50
Wm. Kirkpatrick.... 100	Robt. Evans..... 50
Mrs. Yeates..... 100	Jasper Slaymaker..... 50
Langdon Cheves..... 100	Sam. Dale..... 50
William Coleman.... 150	Amos Ellmaker..... 50
Cyrus Jacobs..... 150	E. C. Reigart..... 50
Thomas B. Coleman. 100	F. W. Muhlenberg.... 50
	Jno. Reynolds..... 50.”

The act of incorporation of the Lancaster County Academy was passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, April 14, 1827.<sup>1</sup> It was brief and simple, being evidently intended to avoid the complications of the college charter. The incorporators were: Rev. William Ashmead, Rev. Joseph Clarkson, Rev. Christian Endress, Adam Reigart, George B. Porter, Edward Coleman, William Jenkins, John Reynolds, George Musser, Frederick A. Muhlenberg, Samuel Dale, George H. Krug, George L. Mayer and Jasper Slaymaker, all of the city of Lancaster. The first president of the corporation was the Reverend Joseph Clarkson.

By the act of incorporation the sum of three thousand dollars was granted to the school; “two thousand dollars thereof to enable them to erect a suitable building or buildings for the said academy, and to purchase books, mathematical instruments, and the necessary philosophical apparatus . . . and the remaining one thousand dollars to be placed in some productive fund, or funds, and the income or profits thereof to be forever applied in aid of

<sup>1</sup> The Charter, By-Laws, and Regulations of the Lancaster County Academy. Lancaster: John Reynolds, Printer, 1827.

other revenue and resources, to compensate a teacher or teachers in said academy.”<sup>1</sup> The sum appropriated was not to be paid to the trustees until at least two thousand dollars had been secured by private contributions. Four scholars, at least, were to be instructed free of charge.

It may be supposed that the new academy might have found a lodging in the buildings of Franklin College; but apart from the fact that these were too large for the purpose, it is probable that the state appropriation could be secured only by the erection of a new edifice.

At any rate the new Board proceeded to purchase from Michael Gundaker a lot of ground at the northeast corner of Orange and Lime streets, on which the academy building was erected. The dimensions of the lot were sixty-eight feet on Orange street and two hundred and forty-five on Lime street. The building was put up in the summer of 1827 by Jacob Hensel and Joshua W. Jack, contractors, for \$2,325. It must, however, be remembered that only a part of the building, as some of us remember it, was erected at this time. As described in the original plan it was of two stories, containing in front thirty-eight feet in the clear and extending thirty feet in depth. On each story there was a room thirty feet square, and on the northern side an entry eight feet wide, in which the stairs were placed. At the head of the stairs, on the second story, there was a small room, about eight by twelve feet in size. The roof, which was covered with slate, was four-sided, coming to a point in the center, on which was erected a small cupola, to contain the bell.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> It may be interesting to note that this sum was invested in stock of the Bank of the United States.

<sup>2</sup> The bell is still in existence, and is in possession of a gentleman residing near Petersburg, Lancaster County.

The Rev. Joseph Barr, of Williamstown, was chosen principal of the academy, and though at first inclined to accept the call, he finally declined at the request of his congregations. James P. Wilson, Jr., a son of the Rev. James Patriot Wilson, D.D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, of Philadelphia, was then elected, and the school was formally opened on the fourth Tuesday of October, 1827. In a circular issued at this time we find the following rather curious statement:

“Youth may be here qualified to enter at least the Junior Class in our most respectable colleges; and as it is presumed that Dickinson College will be generally preferred by parents and guardians in this and the adjoining counties, particular reference will be had to the requisites for admission to the several classes of that Seminary.”<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Wilson conducted the academy about two years. At the opening there were about twenty scholars, and it does not seem that the number was at any time much larger. Why the school failed to prosper it might now be difficult to determine; but we have seen a letter in which it was claimed that the school was too exclusive, and that the esteem in which scholars were held was

<sup>1</sup> The following text-books were ordered by the Board to be used in the Academy: *In English*—Murray's Grammar, Woodbridge's Geography, Kett's Elements, Blair's Lectures, Tyler's History, Watt's Logic. *In the Languages*—Ruddiman's and Ross's Grammar, Corderius *Historia Sacra*, Viri Romæ, Selectæ e Profanis, Cæsar, Ovid, Terence, Sallust, Virgil, Cicero, Horace, Juvenal and Persius. *In Greek*—Wettenhal's Grammar, Testament, Græca Minora, Lucian, Xenophon, Græca Majora, Homer, Epictetus and Longinus, Tooke's Pantheon, Kennett's or Adam's Roman Antiquities and Potter's Grecian Antiquities, Mair's Introduction, and Neilson's Greek Exercises. *In Mathematics*—Pike's or Bonnycastle's Arithmetic, Bonnycastle's or Day's Algebra, Euclid, Hutton's Mathematics.—*Regulations of Lancaster County Academy*, 1827.



greatly influenced by the social position of their parents. The following letter of resignation sufficiently indicated that the principal was not satisfied with the condition of the school:

“LANCASTER, Feb. 19, 1829.

“*Dear Sir,*

“My own interests now clash with a longer residence in Lancaster and render it my duty to resign. I am young and cannot waste the best part of my life in doing nothing to any purpose. I feel grateful to the Trustees for their kindness and attention, and proud also in having done my duty, I hope to their satisfaction. I shall remain till the close of the session.

“Hoping that the Institution may prosper, and leaving this as my resignation to the Trustees,

“I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

“JAMES P. WILSON, JR.”

“To the Revd. Joseph Clarkson.”

Robert Birch, A.B., was the second principal of the academy, if we except J. Erwin, who taught but a single month. Mr. Birch was elected in 1829, having been graduated at Dickinson College in the same year. He brought highly commendatory letters—the originals of which are still in the archives of the college—from Professors Alexander McClelland, Henry Vethake and Joseph Spencer. He was to receive an annual salary of \$500, but was subsequently granted the privilege of increasing his income by giving private instruction. In his letter of resignation, dated December 27, 1830, he says:

“I am pained to think that I have been incompetent to the task of placing the institution committed to my charge in that scale of literary and scientific advancement it so

deservedly merits. . . . If vigorous endeavors are persevered in with my more successful successor 'haud dubie' you will obtain the consummation devoutly to be wished."

"On October 25, 1831, John B. Patterson became principal, and was succeeded by Dr. James Power on June 8, 1832, who in turn gave place, August 16, 1833, to John Keenan. Rev. A. Marcellus was principal in 1837, and engaged J. J. Van Antwerp to assist him in the mathematical scientific departments. It is probable that these were the last teachers of the institution."<sup>1</sup>

During a part of its history the academy received students from the public schools, on certificate from their principal teacher. Many of these certificates are preserved in the archives of the college, and of these the following may serve as a specimen:

"LANCASTER, Jan. 19, 1828.

"George Hubley has been a member of the Public School in this city upwards of three years. He has passed through all the different degrees of preferment until he has attained the station of monitor of the first grade, a dignity inferior only to that of Tutor. He is a very studious and intelligent lad, making it his pride and his pleasure to secure the approbation of being not only one of the best scholars but one of the best boys in his class. His proficiency in Arithmetic, English Grammar and Geography, well qualified him for a more extended course of study.

"With many wishes for his future welfare I can cheerfully recommend him as a youth of good disposition and one of whom I have conceived no ordinary expectations.

"ALEXR. VARIAN,

*"Teacher of the Public School, Lancaster."*

<sup>1</sup> Ellis and Evans's "History of Lancaster County," page 407.

It will be observed that the public schools were conducted according to the so-called Lancasterian system,<sup>1</sup> and that the relation between the schools and the academy was very intimate. With all that could be done the latter institution was, however, never prosperous. Some of the original subscriptions remained unpaid, and, on the 19th of October, 1830, the following circular was addressed to delinquents:

*“Dear Sir,*

“To a Gentleman of your intelligence it would certainly be useless to say one word about the Importance of Education. It was discreditable to the City that we had no Academy or Grammar School. A number of public-spirited individuals petitioned the Legislature, who granted a Charter of Incorporation in the usual manner, with an appropriation to be paid to us on condition that we should raise by subscription \$2,000. Having obtained this subscription we purchased a lot and erected a building; and since then a very useful school has been kept in it. The number of scholars is, however, barely—or perhaps not quite—sufficient to pay the Principal and the current expenses. We are yet in debt for a small part of the building, and are now called on for the balance for the Lot. We have no funds to meet these demands. Shall we suffer the school to be broken up, and this Public Building to be sold under the Hammer for about

<sup>1</sup>The Lancasterian Schools derived their name from Joseph Lancaster (1778–1838), an educational reformer who established schools for the poor in England and America. He devised the plan of appointing some of the pupils as monitors and tutors to instruct the others. The several classes, which were instructed by monitors, were separated by screens or curtains, but could be overlooked by the master, who occupied a platform at the end of the room. The school-building at the corner of Chestnut and Prince streets, in the city of Lancaster, was erected as a Lancasterian school.

\$550? Unless those who subscribed, and on the faith of whose subscription the building was put up, come forward, this must be the case. No further appeal need, we trust, be made to induce you to call upon the Treasurer at once and pay the amount you owe.

"We address a similar letter to each delinquent subscriber, and should this last notice not be attended to, after years of indulgence given, you cannot blame either the Committee or the Board for resorting to the only remaining mode of enforcing payment. We ask you to discharge this sum before the next meeting of the Board, which will be on the 27th inst. We are convinced that you do not know the need we have for money, or you would have paid this small sum long since.

"Duty to the public is the only motive which could induce us to be thus urgent.

"Very respectfully,

"Your friends and obt. servts.,

"\_\_\_\_\_."

It does not appear that this urgent appeal brought the expected relief. For some years the academy struggled on until its condition was almost hopeless. Its liabilities were not large; but it may as well be confessed that no philanthropist had sufficient confidence in its future to make it the object of his benevolence. At last some one wisely conceived the idea that the academy might secure relief by reunion with the institution from which it had sprung.

Franklin College had in the meantime maintained its organization, though it had not been active in the work of education. At a meeting held March 12, 1828, all the vacancies in the Board were filled by election. This

was not an easy matter as, in order to meet the requirements of the charter, it was necessary to choose three Lutheran ministers, two Lutheran laymen, one Reformed minister, six Reformed laymen, two ministers of other denominations and five laymen of other denominations. In 1832 the college-building was repaired. It was subsequently occupied by an "Infant School" which had at one time more than one hundred scholars.

Rev. John C. Baker, D.D., pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, was elected President of the Board of Trustees of Franklin College, June 11, 1828. He was also chosen President of the Board of the Lancaster County Academy. At the same time the Hon. Samuel Dale served as Secretary of both boards. Dr. Baker was a man of great ability and force of character, and mainly by his influence the ancient institution soon began to give signs of new life.

In 1837 the charter of Franklin College was printed in pamphlet form in the English language. Its resources were carefully husbanded; so that, in July, 1840, the endowment amounted to \$27,826.79, and the entire assets were estimated at \$38,069.78.

It is not surprising that at this period the records of the college and academy are somewhat confused, and that it is sometimes difficult to determine to which of these institutions a document properly belongs. It appears, however, that the academy appealed to the college for financial aid, especially for the purpose of satisfying a mortgage which was about to be foreclosed. It was suggested that the college board might sell its old building on North Queen street and apply the proceeds to the relief and restoration of the academy, without trenching on the



invested funds of the college. At last, at the annual meeting of the college board, held October 19, 1837, it was, on motion of Dr. Schmucker,

*“Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to dispose of the present Real Estate of Franklin College in the city of Lancaster, provided the Trustees of the Lancaster Academy are willing to dispose of their Real Estate in the city of Lancaster and are able to make a good title for it; and that if said Academy can be procured at a reasonable price the same Committee be authorized to purchase the said academy for the corporation of Franklin College.”*

The proposed arrangement was soon effected, as was no doubt anticipated when the above resolution was adopted. The old college-building was sold at private sale for \$2,000; and by an act of the Legislature, passed May 15, 1839, the trustees of the academy were authorized to convey their building and grounds to the trustees of Franklin College. It appears that the latter paid for the property of the academy the exact amount of the pressing claim to which we have referred. The following order—which is unfortunately not dated—is in the archives:

*“Treasurer of the Franklin College, pay to Samuel Dale, Five Hundred and ninety-three dollars and thirty-four cents, for the Heirs of Michael Gundaker to procure a release of the said heirs of their claim on the Lot on which is erected the Lancaster County Academy, which sum is to be applied in the purchase of the said Academy for the use of Franklin College.*

*“JOHN C. BAKER,*

*“\$593.34.*

*Pres.”*

So far as Franklin College was concerned this was an excellent stroke of business. Apart from an actual financial profit, the college secured a better location than the one which it had previously occupied. In the autumn of 1839 the academy was closed, and its board of trustees practically ceased to exist. If the college was to continue to exist it was desirable that a possible rival should be removed, and this result was accomplished in the most agreeable and satisfactory manner. Thus the way seemed to be prepared for the reorganization of the college on a new and more comprehensive plan.

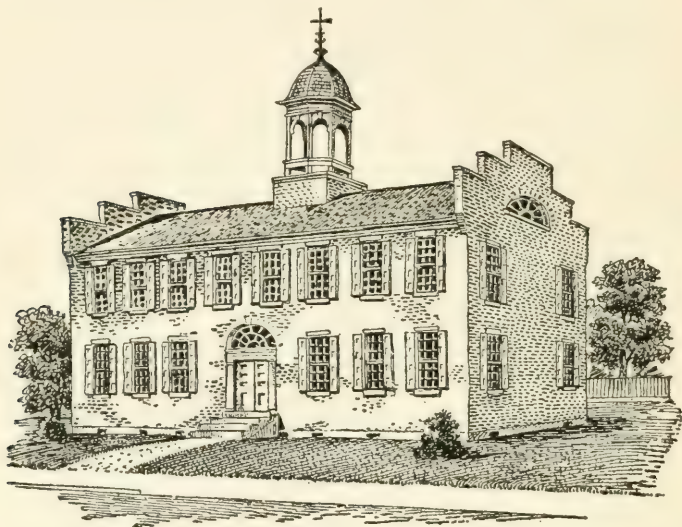
## CHAPTER X.

### THE REVIVAL.

AN ONWARD MOVEMENT — THE BUILDING ENLARGED — PROFESSORS  
F. A. MUHLENBERG AND JAMES REGAN — REV. DR. SAMUEL  
BOWMAN, ACTING PRESIDENT — PROFESSOR JACOB CHAP-  
MAN — A PROFESSOR OF LAW.

A serious responsibility now rested upon the trustees of Franklin College. An important work was expected of them; but they could not fail to recognize the fact that they were not ready to perform it. Some there were who were desirous of establishing a full college at all hazards, though the means at hand were manifestly insufficient for such a purpose. Others went to the opposite extreme and proposed that the academy board should be revived, the use of the building to be given them at a nominal rent, with the promise of an annual appropriation from the college fund that might enable them to maintain a first-rate boarding-school. The view which finally prevailed was in fact a compromise between these opposite opinions. The institution which they determined to establish was to be known as Franklin College, though at first it could hardly be expected to accomplish more than had been proposed for the academy. The academy building was to be enlarged for the use of the college by the erection of a northern wing, which was to be the exact counterpart of the one already existing. It was resolved to elect a president at an annual salary of \$1,200, and two assistants each of whom was to receive \$750. The election of a president was, however, subse-

quently indefinitely postponed, and a committee of supervision was appointed, consisting of the Reverend Samuel Bowman,<sup>1</sup> the Reverend George F. Bahnson<sup>2</sup> and John R. Montgomery, Esq.<sup>3</sup> This committee attended faithfully to its duties, and Dr. Bowman was for some years president of the college in all but name.



FRANKLIN COLLEGE. (THE LANCASTER COUNTY ACADEMY.)

The addition to the academy building on Lime street was erected in 1840 by Mr. John Sehner at a cost of \$1,972. In 1841 a small house was built for the janitor at the northern end of the lot, at a cost of about \$1,000.

On the 11th of September, 1840, Frederick Augustus

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Bowman was born in Wilkesbarre, May 21, 1800; died near Freeport, Pa., August 3, 1861. Rector of St. James' Church, Lancaster, 1827-1858; P. E. Bishop of Pennsylvania, 1858-1861.

<sup>2</sup> Pastor of the Moravian Church, Lancaster, 1839-1849. Bishop of the Unitas Fratrum.

<sup>3</sup> A very distinguished lawyer. Died November 3, 1854.

Muhlenberg<sup>1</sup> and James Regan were elected professors in Franklin College, as now reorganized. That Mr. Muhlenberg had previously taught for a short time in the academy is altogether probable, but the fact is not on record. As a native of Lancaster and a member of a prominent family he enjoyed certain advantages which soon gave him the most influential position in the school, though it was explicitly stated in the action of the board that all the teachers were to be of equal rank. For six years Mr. Muhlenberg was annually reëlected, but on the 1st of June, 1846, he was unanimously chosen Professor of Languages in Franklin College.

Concerning Professor James Regan we have little information. He was a native of England, to which country he returned in the summer of 1846. That he was highly esteemed by the board appears from the following extract from a report presented by Dr. Bowman, January 4, 1842:

“Two of our teachers having made no application for an increase of their salaries, the committee will confine themselves to the case of Mr. Regan. His circumstances are peculiar; being a stranger in the country he labors under various disadvantages, to which a native is not liable. He has a

<sup>1</sup> Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, D.D., LL.D., a grandson of the first president of the college, was born in Lancaster, August 25, 1818; and died in Reading, Pa., March 21, 1901. He was graduated at Jefferson College in 1836 and at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1838. In 1855 he was ordained a minister of the Lutheran Church. He was a professor in Franklin College, 1840-1850; professor of Greek in Pennsylvania College, 1850-1867; first president of Muhlenberg College, 1867-1876; became professor of the Greek language and literature in the University of Pennsylvania in 1876, and subsequently held a similar position in Thiel College, Greenville, Pa. As a Greek scholar he held high rank and he was also an influential minister.



family to support and children to be educated. But not to insist on these points, Mr. R. is, we believe, a scholar of such attainments as we shall hardly meet with again—indefatigable and enthusiastic in his profession—and possessing skill and experience which admirably qualify him for his present post. Thorough master of four languages besides his own, the committee are quite confident that should we lose the services of Mr. R., it will not be possible to find one equal to him, for anything like the salary which he receives, if at all.

“For these reasons the committee recommend the following resolutions:

“*Resolved*, That an addition of \$100 per annum—a sum about equivalent to his house rent—be made to the salary of Mr. Regan, beginning with Jan. 1, 1842.

“*Resolved*, That by this increase of Mr. R.’s salary no precedence in point of rank is intended to be given him, the addition being grounded entirely upon the facts and reasons above stated, and his standing and authority to remain in all respects what they were before.”

When Mr. Regan resigned his position, in 1846, very complimentary resolutions were adopted, assuring him of “the affectionate wishes of the Board, for his future happiness and prosperity.”

In 1841 an English Department was added to Franklin College. Gad Day was principal, and for a time was very popular. Mr. Day was the oldest of the four sons of a New Englander, their names being Gad, Asa, Ira and Dan. Gad Day was in 1838 teacher of the principal public school in Lancaster, receiving a salary of \$800, which was in those days an unusually liberal compensation. In 1839 he was chosen Superintendent of all the

public schools in Lancaster, and was so popular with the board that "seldom were any new departures made without first consulting Mr. Day and getting his views.<sup>1</sup> When he became connected with the college he had no difficulty in gathering a large school; so that for a time it seemed as if the English Department would swallow up the rest of the institution. It was, however, said that Mr. Day was too fond of novelties, and that the results of his teaching were showy rather than permanent. He was also accused of increasing the number of his scholars by lowering the standard of admission. There was some disagreement, and on the 5th of August, 1844, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted by the board:

"WHEREAS, sudden and frequent changes in a collegiate institution are to be deprecated; and, whereas, justice to our teachers demands that they should not be discharged from our service without timely notice given them; therefore,

*"Resolved,* That the college as at present constituted be continued in operation until the 1st of April next, provided that the expense thereof can be met without encroaching on the capital of the institution.

*"Resolved,* That from and after the 1st day of April next the English department be abolished and the branches therein taught transferred to the instructors in classics and mathematics."

It may, we presume, be taken for granted that the above date indicates the conclusion of the labors of Mr. Gad Day.

The Reverend Jacob Chapman was, on the 1st of May,

<sup>1</sup> Ellis and Evans's "History of Lancaster County," p. 412.

1846, elected Professor of Mathematics in Franklin College. He had previously been a Congregational minister, but in the same year joined the Reformed Church and became a member of the Classis of Lebanon. In this way the Reformed Church secured a representative among the teachers of the college.

Mr. Chapman never was pastor of a charge in the Reformed Church, but he frequently supplied vacant congregations and did some missionary work in Harrisburg. He was very active at the time of the organization of St. Paul's Church, Lancaster, and was very highly respected. His literary labors were chiefly devoted to genealogical researches, in which he manifested unusual patience and accuracy. In 1853 he was dismissed by the Classis of Lebanon to the Wabash Congregational Association, of Illinois.

In the spring of 1902 Mr. Chapman was still living at the age of ninety-two.<sup>1</sup> Mr. D. H. Heitshu—a member of St. Paul's Church, who had once been his pupil—wrote him a courteous letter and received the following interesting autograph reply:

“EXETER, N. H., April 1, 1902.

“D. H. HEITSHU, Lancaster, Pa.

“*My Dear Friend,*

“I am too old and feeble to tell you many things which happened to me at Lancaster, Pa. But I am obliged for the information you gave me. I am glad to hear there were 51 additions to the church and that it has grown to near 800. I wish I could remember to tell you of the history of the church in Lancaster. We had a sad time when compelled

<sup>1</sup> It was recently stated in the newspapers that he was one hundred years old, but this was an exaggeration.

to come out and organize a new church. But we had many friends; and the blessing of God rested upon us and has followed the church.

"I think my labors in Harrisburg and the town above were blessed. In 1852 I began preaching in Marshall, Ill., for twelve years. The chills and fever led me to return to New Hampshire and preach six years in Deerfield and seven years in Kingston. At the age of seventy I settled in Exeter, where I expect to finish my labors before long. I have written (I think) five volumes of the history of my labors.

"It is interesting to learn that the Lord has blessed your church with such wonderful prosperity. I am obliged to *you* for telling me of the continued prosperity which has followed the church in which I always feel such an interest. I always labored to aid the good work in which the college was engaged. It never failed to have my sympathy and assistance. I visited many places in the vicinity, and lent my aid to build up the College which came in for aid and support, though I had no expectation of having any return for my labors. The college which came in from Mercersburg had no place for me or my service, only to aid in its commencement. I had an offer of a place among its faculty, but it was not such a place as I would choose or easily fill. I accepted a call to three churches near Terre Haute, Indiana, and remained in the church at Marshall, Ill., twelve years. Returned on account of the chills to N. Hampshire and preached till I was seventy years of age; then wrote four volumes—history of my second wife's relatives and my own father's early relatives in Greenland, N. H., etc.

"I think you will find in the Chapman Genealogy (which I think I sent you) a more complete history of my labors in the West. Now I am drawing near to the close of my labors, continued so many years. It is not easy to write, as it used to be, and the memory of many things is passing away. I

wrote a History of Kingston, N. H., where I taught and afterwards preached for some years. But I must close.

“Yours truly,

“JACOB CHAPMAN,

“Exeter, N. H.”

Though the above letter contains some repetitions, the fact is explained by the extreme age of the writer, and it is otherwise so interesting that we have not ventured to abbreviate it. As perhaps the last survivor of the men who were prominent in the later history of Franklin College, Mr. Chapman deserves a prominent place in the records of the united institution.

In March, 1846, a union—or rather alliance—was formed between the trustees and the directors of the public schools of the city of Lancaster, and this arrangement was annually renewed until September, 1849. During this period the school board paid the salary of the professor of mathematics, in consideration of the fact that advanced scholars of the public schools were admitted to the college free of charge for tuition, and that a room in the college-building was granted without rent to the school board for its meetings. The arrangement was terminated by the school board in view of its purpose to erect a separate high school.

About this time signs of a new life began to appear. In 1848 attendance on morning prayers was made obligatory, and students were required to commit to memory the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. That there was more confidence in the future of the institution is indicated by the fact that in September, 1848, Mr. Coultas presented a herbarium and that, one year later, H. E. Muhlenberg deposited in the



library a mineralogical collection for the use of the college. A larger number of books was annually purchased for the library and the old Benjamin Franklin Debating Society was revived.<sup>1</sup> Through the instrumentality of the Honorable Thaddeus Stevens many government publications were secured from Washington.

In response to a petition signed by several members of the bar, the board of trustees, on September 7, 1846, established a professorship of Law and Medical Jurisprudence in Franklin College, "provided that the salary of the professor be not drawn from the funds of this board." The Hon. Ellis Lewis<sup>2</sup> was elected to this professorship. It was the evident purpose of the promoters of this movement to establish a law school under the charter of Franklin College, but it does not appear that Judge Lewis accepted the appointment. The fact was, however, universally acknowledged that the time for an onward movement of some kind had come at last.

<sup>1</sup> The Lancaster Athenæum was closely connected with Franklin College and maintained a reading room in the college building.

<sup>2</sup> Ellis Lewis, LL.D., was born in York County, Pa., May 16, 1798, and died in Philadelphia, March 19, 1871. Attorney General of Pennsylvania, 1833; judge of Supreme Court, 1851; chief justice, 1854. He received the honorary degree of M.D. from the Philadelphia College of Medicine in recognition of his knowledge of medical jurisprudence.

## CHAPTER XI.

### THE UNION MOVEMENT.

PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT — PLANS FOR UNION — AGREEMENT WITH MARSHALL COLLEGE — DR. J. C. BUCHER'S SUCCESS — PURCHASE OF THE LUTHERAN INTEREST — CONFIRMATION OF THE UNION.

The expansion of Franklin College was delayed by what seemed to be insurmountable difficulties. It is, of course, true that the means at hand were not sufficient for the establishment of an important institution; but by an earnest effort the endowment might have been increased. The chief obstacle, as we apprehend it, was the recent establishment of denominational colleges which were supposed to have occupied the field; so that at best the institution in Lancaster could hardly hope for more than local patronage. The only conceivable way of escape from this difficulty appeared to be to unite with some existing institution; thus not only increasing the endowment, but securing the favor and patronage of that branch of the church which it represented.

As early as 1835 the Board of Trustees of Franklin College had addressed a communication to the Reformed synod, convened in Chambersburg, inviting that body to remove its high school from York to Lancaster. The proposition was rather formally worded, "as follows, to wit:—"

"That should it please your body to pass a resolution removing the Classical School attached to the Seminary at York, in this State, from the town of York to Lancaster,

they, the trustees, from the disposition manifested at the present meeting have no hesitancy in saying that they will elect as Principal and Assistant the Principal and Assistant of said classical school at York, and apply for their use and accommodation their available funds and their buildings at Lancaster and the lots on which the same are erected, they, the present board of trustees, reserving to themselves and their successors the right they now hold of acting as trustees, agreeably to all the provisions of the charter of said college.

“Furthermore, That so soon as the President of this board is apprized of the acceptance of this proposition, and of the passage of a resolution removing the said classical school to this place, measures shall be adopted to place the buildings in a suitable state of repair.”

To this proposition we shall have occasion to refer hereafter. At this place we can only say, that the Reformed Synod was naturally unwilling to establish an institution whose management would be beyond its control. The proposition was accordingly declined and the school was removed from York to Mercersburg.

After this failure there were many conflicting propositions. In 1844 it was proposed by some of the trustees to set aside one-sixth of the capital of the college “for the purpose of erecting a Charity School, in accordance with the provisions of Article 13, of the charter of incorporation.” It is supposed that this proposition was made in behalf of the so-called “Infant School” which occupied a part of the college-building. It was, however, finally rejected.

The outlook was not promising, but positive action had become a necessity. Propositions for union with Marshall or with Pennsylvania College would have been welcomed, but there were none forthcoming. At last, on the

3d of September, 1849, the board adopted the following preamble and resolution:

“WHEREAS, in the opinion of this board, it is absolutely necessary for the welfare of Franklin College and the more complete carrying out of the provisions of the charter, to have a new and larger edifice erected for the accommodation of students from abroad; therefore,

“*Resolved*, That Five Thousand dollars out of the treasury, and such sum as may arise from the sale of the lot and buildings on Orange and Lime streets, be appropriated to effect the same; provided that not less than Ten Thousand dollars be raised by subscription for the same purpose.”

At the meeting at which this action was taken a bare quorum was present, and there was no unanimity of sentiment. It is said, however, that within a short time about \$7,000 were subscribed for the proposed building. When the board met again, three months later, it was found that opposition had become formidable. It was urged that the erection of a new building would by no means insure the prosperity of the college. As it would necessarily become a rival of existing colleges, would it not provoke their hostility, if it did not actually become a cause of contention in the denominations which they represented? It is, therefore, not surprising that the following action was immediately proposed:

“*Resolved*, That in the estimation of the Board, the purposes of the charter of Franklin College can in no way be so effectually and successfully accomplished as by an equal division of the funds of said college between the Boards of Marshall College, at Mercersburg, and Pennsylvania College, at Gettysburg, respectively.”

This would, no doubt, have been the easiest way out of the difficulties of the situation, and might have been especially agreeable to the trustees of Pennsylvania College, who had never manifested any inclination to remove from Gettysburg. Such action would, however, have involved the dissolution of Franklin College, and this was what the local members especially desired to prevent. Though the college was a small affair, it was *their own*. They had waited for many years for the establishment of such an institution as their fathers had proposed and naturally did not desire their long cherished ideal to be shattered in a moment. As it was known that such sentiments were entertained by the majority of the trustees the proposed resolution was finally withdrawn.

Immediately afterwards it was moved and seconded—we do not know by whom:

“That in the estimation of this Board the ends and purposes of the charter will be best secured and most successfully carried out by the merging of said college in Marshall College, now at Mercersburg, in this State; provided that said Marshall College, with its faculty, funds, and students, be transferred and be established in the city of Lancaster.”

This resolution was immediately capped with an amendment to the effect that “the same offer in substance be made to the other Christian denominations, and that terms be entered into with such body as shall make the most advantageous proposals to this Board.”

This proposed action was possibly premature, but it led to a discussion that continued through two succeeding days and actually opened the way for final union. On the 5th of December, 1849, Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg offered the following substitute:



“WHEREAS, the appropriate time has arrived for expanding the usefulness of Franklin College as a literary institution, and preliminary steps having already been taken under a resolution of this board for collecting a sufficient fund to erect suitable college edifices; therefore, be it,

“1. *Resolved*, That an invitation be respectfully given to Pennsylvania College, at Gettysburg, and Marshall College, at Mercersburg, to unite their respective interests with Franklin College, in the city and county of Lancaster, that an institution with foundation broad and deep may be erected, sufficiently extensive to supply the wants and demands of the Germans of Pennsylvania and their descendants for whose benefit this corporation was erected.

“2. *Resolved*, That so soon as a junction of one or more of these interests be effected, this Board will pledge itself to elect one-third of the Faculty from the Lutherans, one-third from the German Reformed, and another from the third denominations represented under the charter, the Principal and Vice Principal to be selected as therein directed.

“3. *Resolved*, That this institution is worthy of the honorable name she has assumed and will retain it. Since the year 1787, under adverse circumstances, she has sustained a classical and mathematical school, without participating in the bounty of the State. It is true she received 10,000 acres as a donation in waste lands from the State, but for many years worthless and expensive to the Corporation; nevertheless, by careful conduct and an economical policy, she has accumulated a capital of \$40,000, whilst other sister institutions, although sectarian and receiving the full bounty of the State, have failed.

“4. *Resolved*, That as these propositions are of vital interest to the future literary existence of Franklin College, no final action be taken until the next annual meeting of this Board, in December, 1850.”

The plan which was here proposed we can only characterize as splendid. If it could have been carried out the result would have reflected the highest glory on its promoters. A little reflection is, however, enough to show that it was, in fact, a revival of the plan of the original founders of Franklin College, a plan which though magnificent on paper had proved a lamentable failure. It was probably for this reason that the above resolutions failed to be adopted.

At this point the name of the Rev. John Casper Bucher for the first time appears prominently on the records. Immediately after the presentation of Dr. Muhlenberg's paper, he moved that the fourth resolution be amended to the following effect:

"That this Board will merge the two thirds of the funds of Franklin College into Marshall College, or the institutions at Mercersburg, Pa., on the condition that said Marshall College be brought here; and we will pay one third of said fund into the hands of the Trustees of the Lutheran church, which one third they may use as an endowment of a professorship, on which they may elect a professor of their denomination and call it the Lutheran professorship."

That Mr. Bucher did not make this proposition without authority goes without saying. The whole matter had been fully discussed in the Reformed Synod, held in Norristown in October, 1849, and Mr. Bucher was simply the informal representative of his church. How the way was prepared for such a proposition we shall see hereafter when we come to relate the history of Marshall College.

The minutes of the meetings which were successively held in 1849-50 are fairly complete; but it would be a tedious task to consider anew all the propositions which

were then presented. There were frequent disagreements, and motions to amend or to reconsider—to postpone or to lay on the table—were exceedingly numerous. Gradually, however, a plan of union was evolved from what at times appeared to be confusion. A committee of conference—consisting of three Lutheran and three Reformed members—reported on the 5th of December, 1850, that they had unanimously agreed to propose a plan of union on the following conditions:

“1. That the two boards of Trustees apply to the next Legislature for an alteration in their respective charters, so that the new corporation may be called ‘Franklin Marshall College’ to be established in the city of Lancaster or its immediate vicinity.

“2. That provision be made in the new charter that one third of the Board of Trustees shall forever be Lutherans, and two thirds German Reformed, or such other persons as the said Lutheran and German Reformed members of the Board may respectively see fit to elect.

“3. Two professors of the faculty to be nominated by the Lutherans and elected by the board, their salaries to be equal to those of the other professors.”

These terms were referred to the Board of Trustees of Marshall College, and were by them somewhat radically amended. In the first article the word “and” was inserted between the words “Franklin Marshall,” so as to read “Franklin and Marshall College.”<sup>1</sup> The second article was amended by striking out all after the word

<sup>1</sup> It is rather amusing to observe how much zeal was expended on this little matter. Attempts were subsequently made to strike out the word “and” from the college title, and to substitute a hyphen, so as to read “Franklin-Marshall”; but the present form was finally accepted.

“charter” and inserting “that two-thirds of the Board of Trustees shall forever be German Reformed, one-sixth Lutherans, and the remaining one-sixth of said Board shall be chosen from any other society of Christians.” The third article was entirely stricken out and the following substituted:

“That one of the professors shall be of the Lutheran church, whose salary shall rate with that of the other professors generally; and a second professor may be chosen from the Lutheran church, provided that a fund for his support be created by said church.”

Marshall College also added the following condition:

“That the people of the city and county of Lancaster be required to raise an amount not less than twenty-five thousand dollars to purchase the ground and defray the expenses of erecting the buildings for the college and professors’ houses, without touching the present funds of either Franklin or Marshall College, the proceeds of the sale of Marshall College to be placed in the general fund for the endowment of Franklin and Marshall College.”

Of these amended terms the first and fourth were accepted, but the second and third were rejected. There was renewed controversy, and it seemed as if the proposed union had utterly failed. It had become evident that if the institution was to succeed it must be placed under the care of a single religious denomination; and it was then proposed that the Reformed Church should pay to the Lutherans the value of their part of the property and endowment of Franklin College. This was found to be the only satisfactory course. The property of Franklin College, in real estate and endowment, was carefully as-

sessed, and found to amount to \$51,508.84. One-third of this amount, representing what was known as the Lutheran interest, was to be retained by the Board until the Reformed Church paid an equal amount into the treasury, so that the original endowment might remain intact. As soon as this was done the amount of this third interest (\$17,169.71) was to be paid to the Lutheran members of the Board, by whom it was to be transferred to the trustees of Pennsylvania College, at Gettysburg, for the support of a professorship of ancient languages, the first incumbent to be chosen by the Lutheran members of the Board of Franklin College, and subsequent nominations to be vested in the old Evangelical Synod of Pennsylvania. It was also resolved that before the union of the colleges could be consummated the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars must be raised by the citizens of Lancaster city and county and paid "in current funds" into the treasury for the purchase of grounds and erection of buildings for the use of Franklin and Marshall College. These conditions were to be inserted into the bill, the enactment of which was to be solicited of the Legislature, and none of the previous resolutions were to be valid unless they were literally complied with.

It was not generally believed that the Reformed Church would be able to secure the required funds within the stipulated time. The work was however undertaken with great vigor, and the results were satisfactory. The Rev. J. C. Bucher was appointed the agent of the Board of Franklin College to secure the sum of \$25,000 for the building fund, and labored in Lancaster with the energy for which he was famous. For some time he was efficiently assisted by the Rev. David Bossler.



The Synod of the Reformed Church undertook to raise the sum needed to purchase the Lutheran interest in the college. It was known as the Seventeen Thousand Dollar Fund, and its collection in the brief time required demanded extraordinary efforts. Indeed, we may now confess—what was in those days a profound secret—that not all the money was actually in hand when its payment was imperatively demanded; but several good friends quietly advanced what was still needed, and were, of course, subsequently reimbursed, when the subscriptions had all been paid.

It is said that the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Franklin College, held December 21, 1852, was decidedly interesting. The Reformed members were slow in appearing, and it was believed by some that their work had failed. In a few minutes new propositions would have been presented, and an effort have been made to secure a declaration that the conditions of union had not been met. Then, however, the representatives of the Reformed Church appeared and paid the amount due to the uttermost cent. On the proceedings of this meeting the following resolutions appear:

*“Resolved,* That the treasurer of Franklin College is hereby directed to pay over to the Lutheran portion of the Trustees of Franklin College, \$17,169  $\frac{61}{100}$ , being the one third of the appraised value of the property of said college.

*“Resolved,* That the President of Franklin College is hereby authorized to certify that Twenty-five Thousand Dollars have been paid by the citizens of the City and County of Lancaster to a joint committee of Franklin and Marshall Colleges; also that the German Reformed Church have paid into the treasury of Franklin College, Seventeen Thousand,

One Hundred and Sixty-nine  $\frac{61}{100}$  Dollars, being the one third of the appraised value of the property of Franklin College, and that the same amount has been authorized to be paid to the Lutheran portion of the Trustees of said Board, and has been so paid over."

It is but just to state that the success which attended the negotiations between the colleges was greatly due to the aid and sympathy of the Hon. James Buchanan and the Rev. Dr. Samuel Bowman. Mr. Buchanan served as President in the absence of Dr. Baker, and Dr. Bowman remained Secretary until the final dissolution of the Board. They were faithful friends of the college, and at this trying time their wisdom was "better than rubies."

Of course, there were many things to be done before the union of the colleges could be actually consummated. By a vote of the tax-payers of the city the third part of the property of Franklin College, which was supposed to be vested in "the outside community," was formally transferred to the Reformed Church; and on March 1, 1853, the Hon. James Buchanan was authorized "to transfer and convey all the estate real and personal of Franklin College to Franklin and Marshall College."<sup>1</sup> On the same day the treasurer of Franklin College was directed to hand over to the treasurer of Franklin and Marshall College all the securities and other articles of value then in his possession. These were the last important acts of the Board of Franklin College, though several meetings were held afterwards to fill vacancies in the building committee. The last meeting of which we have any record was held July 27, 1853.

<sup>1</sup> This deed was executed by Mr. Buchanan, June 28, 1853.

The act of the Legislature confirming the union with Marshall College was signed by the Governor April 29, 1850. The amount paid the trustees of Pennsylvania College for the Lutheran interest in Franklin College was duly applied to the endowment of the Franklin professorship of Ancient Languages, and the Rev. F. A. Muhlenberg became its first incumbent. The Lutheran Synod, at its meeting in Pottsville, in 1850, "heartily approved" of the arrangement.

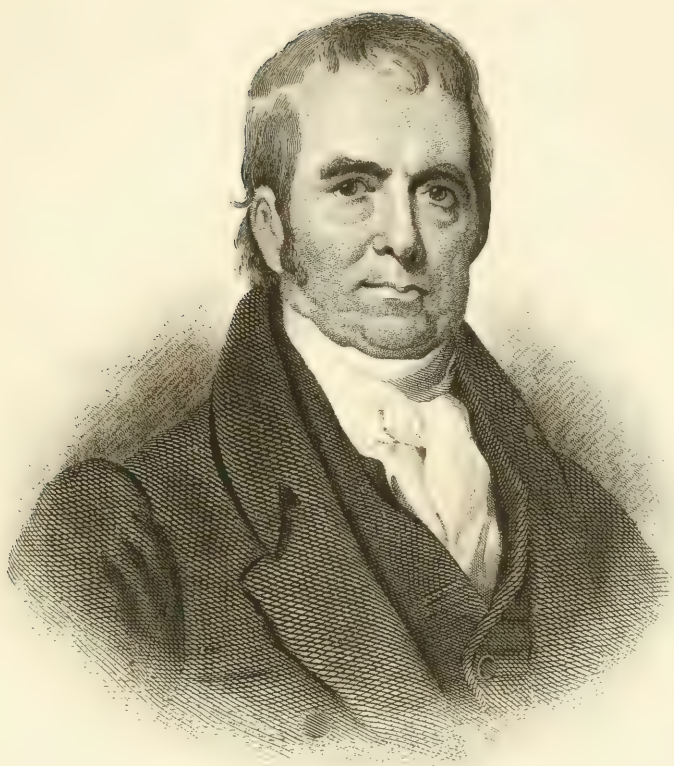
Fifty years ago the union of the colleges was sometimes playfully referred to as the marriage of "Sir Marshall and Lady Franklin"; and in after-dinner speeches there were pleasant allusions to the youthful bridegroom and his somewhat venerable bride. Pursuing the ancient analogy, we now beg leave to introduce the knight who came from afar to woo and wed the lady whose story we have tried to tell.



MARSHALL COLLEGE.







*Monroe*



## CHAPTER XII.

### THE HIGH SCHOOL.

THE CHARTER — THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY — CLASSICAL INSTITUTION  
AT YORK — THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL — LITERARY SOCIETIES.

The charter of Marshall College was granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania during its session of 1835–1836, receiving the signature of Governor Joseph Ritner on the 31st of March, 1836. In this charter the first article declares: “That the High School of German Reformed Church, located at Mercersburg, be and hereby is erected into a college for the education of youth in the learned languages, the arts, sciences, and useful literature.” It must, therefore, be our first purpose to give some account of the High School which was thus honored, though it may be well to premise that the latter institution was itself derived from the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church.

Though it is not our purpose to write the history of the Theological Seminary, it is not easy to give a full account of the college without trenching to some extent upon the field properly reserved for the historian of the theological institution. The seminary and college are closely related; and in the days when they occupied the same building strangers sometimes found it difficult to distinguish between them. Referring to this intimate relation the catalogue of Marshall College says, in 1840:

“The primary object of the two institutions may be regarded as one and the same. The church needs ministers, and she is concerned to have them properly educated for their

high and responsible work. It is her zeal for this work which has given birth to Marshall College. Harvard University, Yale College, and Nassau Hall owe their origin mainly to a similar zeal on the part of the religious denominations by which they were founded.”

The best men in the Reformed Church had long desired the establishment of a theological seminary, but several successive efforts had resulted in disappointment. In 1820 it was proposed to found such an institution in Frederick, Md., and the Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler was chosen Professor of Theology. There was much enthusiasm, and upwards of \$30,000 were promised for the endowment. Unfortunately these subscriptions were conditioned on the acceptance of Dr. Milledoler; and when the latter finally declined, after holding the call for two years, the disappointment was keenly felt, and for some time it seemed unlikely that the project would be revived.<sup>1</sup>

The demand for educated ministers, however, still continued, and it became evident that unless existing vacancies in important pastorates were speedily supplied, the churches themselves must be lost to the denomination. The matter was felt to be of paramount importance, and in 1823 the Synod of the Reformed Church resolved to establish a seminary in Harrisburg, and the Rev. Dr.

<sup>1</sup> It was understood that if Dr. Milledoler had accepted the call, Col. Henry Rutgers, of New York, would have contributed a large part of the endowment. When Dr. Milledoler, in 1825, became president of the college in New Brunswick, the name of that institution was changed from Queen's College to Rutgers, "in honor of one, its distinguished benefactor, Col. Henry Rutgers, of New York city." We have heard it stated that it was once proposed to call the institution now in Lancaster "Rutgers College," but beyond these facts there seems to be no authority for this statement.



Samuel Helffenstein, of Philadelphia, was chosen to the first professorship; but this plan was not carried out, for reasons which we have no space to relate. In 1824 the trustees of Dickinson College presented a plan which was deemed feasible, and it was accordingly accepted. It was proposed that the seminary should be founded in Carlisle, Pa., and that the professor of theology, in return for the use of a recitation-room and the payment of his house rent, should serve as professor of history and German literature in Dickinson College.

Dr. Helffenstein was again elected professor of theology, but he declined the call, and it was finally accepted by the Rev. Dr. Lewis Mayer.<sup>1</sup>

*Lewis Mayer*

"When I accepted that call," said Dr. Mayer subsequently,<sup>2</sup> "the prospect of establishing a Seminary was so dark and discouraging that no brother, whose situation at the time was pleasant, could have been induced to accept the professorship. I gave up a certainty for an uncertainty, relinquished a better living, and subjected myself to a series of untried labors; resolved, at the hazard of all that I held dear, if it were the will of God, to make the effort to lay the foundation of an institution which I hoped would be a blessing to the church for ages to come."

<sup>1</sup> Lewis Mayer was born in Lancaster, Pa., March 26, 1783; died at York, Pa., August 25, 1849. Pastor, Shepherdstown, Va., 1808-21; York, Pa., 1821-25. Professor of Theology, 1825-37. Author of "Sin against the Holy Ghost," "Lectures on Scriptural Subjects," "History of German Reformed Church," Vol. I., and many pamphlets.

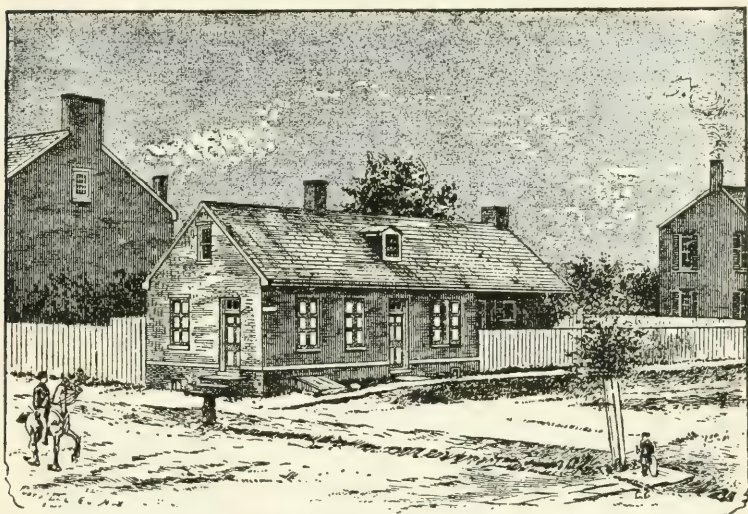
<sup>2</sup> Letter to Dr. D. Zacharias, December 27, 1836.

The Theological Seminary was opened at Carlisle on the eleventh day of March, 1825, with five students, but within a year the number had increased to ten. They were devout young men, but their teacher was greatly discouraged by their lack of preparatory training. In his successive reports to synod he complained that most of the students were so imperfectly prepared that he was actually compelled to spend most of his time in teaching primary branches.

It had been expected that special opportunities for instruction would be afforded by Dickinson College; but the condition of that institution was most discouraging. The college had been founded as a Presbyterian interest, but other literary institutions had been founded elsewhere by the same denomination, and it now lacked adequate support. Indeed, it was regarded as almost ruined, and its authorities utterly failed to provide for the theological seminary, so that Dr. Mayer found himself compelled to give instruction in his private residence. A few years later Dickinson College was transferred to the Methodist Church and since that time it has enjoyed a high degree of prosperity. There can be no doubt that the Reformed Church had a prior opportunity of securing this valuable location, and that it was neglected was subsequently the cause of much regret.

In Carlisle the seminary had many troubles, and in 1829 Dr. Mayer, on his own responsibility, removed to York, where he had purchased what he regarded as a suitable property. This property the Church subsequently accepted at the price which Dr. Mayer had paid for it. Here the seminary was reopened, and the Rev. Daniel Young became assistant professor of theology. In the

same year Dr. Mayer earnestly appealed to synod to establish a classical institution. At the same time he requested the synod to investigate the affairs of Franklin College, at Lancaster, and if possible to secure the value of the Reformed interest in that institution for the purpose of endowing the proposed school. Dr. Mayer's plan was approved and it was resolved to establish a classical institution as soon as the way was open. In 1830 a com-



THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN YORK.

mittee was appointed to confer with the Lutheran Synod with regard to the reestablishment of Franklin College, and the following year the Reformed Synod expressed its willingness to coöperate in such an undertaking; but it need hardly be said that these efforts proved unsuccessful.

In the autumn of 1831 the Board of Visitors appointed the Rev. S. Boyer "classical teacher" in the theological seminary. He seems to have been kept sufficiently busy,

for at the end of the session he examined his classes in Geography, Jacobs' Reader, Virgil, Cicero, and the New Testament in Greek. He did not remain long, for in the summer session his place was supplied by the Rev. W. A. Good, who was at the same time a student of theology. Dr. Mayer taught German and some other branches which were not properly included in his department as Professor of Theology.

As soon as the seminary was thus enlarged the number of students rapidly increased. Among the applicants there were several who had no immediate purpose of studying for the ministry. The time had now come for the establishment of a classical institution, and with it came the man.

The choice of a principal for the proposed institution was not an easy matter. There were few ministers who had enjoyed a classical education, and among these there was not one who would have ventured to undertake the work. There was some talk about calling a distinguished graduate of some other institution; but it was feared that such a man would find it difficult to accommodate himself to new and peculiar conditions. It was, therefore, a most auspicious event when, at the meeting of synod held in Frederick, Md., in September, 1832, a young man appeared who evidently possessed the highest qualifications for this important work.

Dr. Frederick Augustus Rauch occupies so prominent a position in this history that in a subsequent chapter we shall endeavor to give a full account of his brief but brilliant career. At the time of his appearance at the synod of Frederick he was but twenty-six years old—a handsome man of highly intellectual appearance, with manners



that were unusually genial and sympathetic. As he had been but a year in America his knowledge of the English language was still imperfect; but when his errors were pointed out they caused him a great deal of amusement.<sup>1</sup> Those who feared that the matter of language would interfere with his usefulness did not recognize that to a man so thoroughly trained in philology the acquisition of an additional language was not a very serious matter.

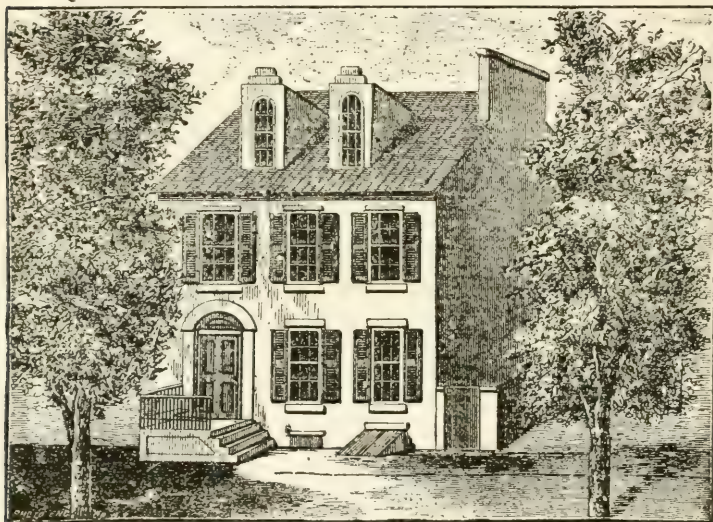
Fortunately a number of Reformed ministers had made the acquaintance of Dr. Rauch in the previous year, when he was giving instruction in German in Lafayette College, at Easton. It speaks well for the discernment of these men that they discovered in this young German the elements necessary for successful labor in the institutions of the Reformed Church. Letters of recommendation were addressed to the synod by the Rev. Messrs. Hoffeditz, Pomp, J. C. Becker and Isaac Gerhart, and it was to these letters that the election of Dr. Rauch was chiefly due.

In the previous year the Rev. Daniel Young, Assistant Professor in the Theological Seminary, had died, and there was therefore a vacancy in that institution. The synod elected Dr. Rauch to this position as Professor of Biblical Literature, and at the same time directed him to have exclusive charge of the Classical Institution. For this double service he was to receive an annual salary of \$600. He declined a larger salary on the ground that he had not yet proved his fitness for the position.

<sup>1</sup> It is said that Dr. Rauch began an English speech with the words: "I am very much not glad." Many years afterwards the incident was related to Dr. Schaff, while his knowledge of English was still inadequate. "Yes!" he responded reflectively: "That was certainly a great mistake. He ought to have said: 'I am not very much glad.'"



In establishing the Classical Institution Dr. Rauch was very successful. In 1833 he reported that the number of students was forty-seven and in the succeeding year it had increased to seventy-six. The synod was so well pleased that, in 1833, it directed the churches to take up collections for the classical institution, as well as for the theological seminary. Dr. Rauch was installed at York on the 17th of October, 1832.



HIGH SCHOOL IN YORK.

For one year the Rev. J. H. Agnew was Dr. Rauch's assistant. Mr. Agnew taught English, Latin (Virgil and Horace), U. S. history, mental arithmetic, algebra, geography and natural philosophy. In the autumn of 1833 the Rev. H. Miller and the Rev. C. Dober were appointed assistants. Mr. E. Blech also taught for some time at the request of Dr. Rauch, but does not seem to have been

regularly appointed. Mr. Miller having resigned at the close of the winter session, the Board selected Samuel A. Budd, A.B., as his successor. Professor Budd subsequently became a member of the Faculty of Marshall College and was very highly esteemed.

In 1835 the name of the Classical Institution was changed by synod to "High School of the Reformed Church." No doubt it had previously been popularly known by the latter title. By this time the school appeared to be firmly established; and among the students there were a number of brilliant young men who subsequently gave a good account of themselves in church and



SAMUEL REED FISHER.

state. In those days it was the highest object of a young man's ambition to become a good writer and speaker, and there was hardly a good school in the country which had not a debating society. Such a society had been organized in the High School at an early date, but as is often the case after a year or two of activity, the society became

moribund and seemed about to expire. Then, however, a young man appeared to whose energy and perseverance the organization of the literary societies is mainly due.

Samuel Reed Fisher<sup>1</sup> was a graduate of Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pa., and was now a student in the theological seminary at York. While he was a student at college he had been an active member of a literary society, and was therefore well qualified to appreciate its benefits. He was welcomed as a member of the Debating Society, which at his suggestion was named "Diagnothian."<sup>2</sup> The society became prosperous and Mr. Fisher suggested that it should be divided into two societies, standing towards each other in the relation of generous rivals.

The proposed division was actually accomplished on Monday evening, June 8, 1835. John B. Cox and Jesse Steiner were directed to effect the division. Casting lots for the first choice, the students present were alternately chosen for one or the other society until all had been placed. The following arrangement was finally adopted:

1. George W. Williard, Henry Williard, S. R. Fisher, John B. Cox, Moses Kieffer, Isaac H. McCauley, William

<sup>1</sup>The Rev. S. R. Fisher, D.D., was born at Norristown, Pa., June 2, 1810, and died in Tiffin, Ohio, June 5, 1881. For many years he was editor of *The Messenger* and Superintendent of the Publication Interests of the Reformed Church.

<sup>2</sup>There is a tradition that the Diagnothian Society was named after the literary society of which Dr. Fisher was a member while he was a student of Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pa. This, however, appears to be a mistake. "The literary societies of Jefferson College were the Philo and the Franklin; those of Washington College the Union and the Washington. Since the union in 1869 the societies have been united under the names Philo and Union, Franklin and Washington."—*Letter of President J. D. Moffat of Washington and Jefferson College, September 10, 1902.*

F. Colliflower, Daniel Y. Hinkle, Amos H. Kremer and Daniel Miller.

2. Jacob Ziegler, Jesse Steiner, Andrew S. Young, Charles F. McCauley, Isaac E. Houser, George H. Martin, Michael Eyster, John R. Kooker, E. V. Gerhart and J. H. A. Bomberger.

Several students who were not present at this preliminary meeting connected themselves with the societies at their first regular meeting, but by their absence at the time of the division missed the opportunity of being enrolled among the founders. Among these was Charles A. Hay—subsequently professor of theology at Gettysburg—whom the Diagnothian Society regards as its first initiate.

Immediately there was a spirited contest for the possession of the original name; but Mr. Fisher persuaded the first section to call itself "Goethean," thus giving the name "Diagnothian" to the second. This was regarded as a generous concession, and served to keep the peace between the societies.

When Dr. Rauch was informed that one of the literary societies had been named after Germany's greatest poet he was greatly delighted. He evidently regarded the fact as a personal compliment, and at once became the enthusiastic champion of the Goethean Society. The Goetheans were naturally elated, but the Diagnothians, of course, were correspondingly depressed. If the principal of the school favored their rivals what could the Diagnothians hope to accomplish? Would it not be better to acknowledge defeat and disband the society?

Charles F. McCauley—afterwards an eminent minister—was an enthusiastic Diagnothian, and—as he long afterwards told the writer—was so worried that he could



neither eat nor sleep. At last he solicited an interview with Dr. Rauch and respectfully told him his trouble. "It is not just," he said, "that you should give your influence to our rivals."

Dr. Rauch received his visitor very kindly, but seemed greatly affected by the implied reproof. "Do you blame me?" he inquired. "If you were a poor refugee in a foreign land, as I am, would you not be pleased if a literary society were named after the greatest man of your native country? I thought your society could depend for its membership on the prevailing English element of this country, and that I might safely urge those who are proud of German descent to do honor to the name of Goethe; but I find I was wrong, and henceforth I will occupy a strictly impartial position between the two societies." "This interview," said Dr. McCauley, "accomplished all that was desired; but before we were through with it *we both cried.*"

The students of the High School differed greatly among themselves in knowledge and culture. The leaders were young men who proposed to study for the ministry; but students soon appeared whose early training had been neglected, and who rather deserved pity than the ridicule which they generally received. Dr. Fisher used to tell a story about a country boy who gave his associates a good deal of amusement. His name was Schof (*i. e.*, Schaf), but he had conceived the idea that as he was about to be anglicized even his name must assume an English form. When he entered the recitation room his appearance was as comical as can well be conceived, and when the professor asked him, "What is your name?" he promptly replied: "My name is Mister Sheep." Immediately the



boys began to bleat—"Baa! Baa!"— and the poor fellow took his seat in confusion, not knowing what was wrong. He remained in the school only a few days.

As the High School increased in numbers and efficiency there was a general desire that it should be raised to the rank of a college. This desire was no doubt strengthened by the fact that the Lutheran Church had, in 1832, founded Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg. Why the institutions of the Reformed Church were not left in York it is now not easy to explain. The location appears to have been suitable, and the community was one in which such institutions might have been expected to flourish. Dr. Appel intimates<sup>1</sup> that the seminary was under a cloud, in consequence of a lawsuit which was one of the unfortunate results of its troubles at Carlisle. The fact is that these institutions might easily have been retained at York if there had been any one to awaken the people to a sense of their importance. As it was, while other places contended for their location, the town of York made no motion, and in the fall of 1835 the High School was removed.

<sup>1</sup> "Recollections of College Life," p. 85.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### THE REMOVAL.

CHOICE OF LOCATION — THE REVEREND JACOB MAYER — MERCERSBURG — THE OLD ACADEMY — FIRST BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
— A SMALL FACULTY.

Though the High School had done good work it had financially been less successful than might have been expected. There was a deficit which in 1835 had grown to \$2,037.87, and this sum had to be paid out of the treasury of synod. That it was more alarming than a much larger debt would prove at the present day, is perfectly plain.

A convention of ministers met at the invitation of the Board of Visitors, in June, 1834, to consider the affairs of the High School and to propose to synod such action as might be advisable. The attendance was not large; but it was generally agreed to recommend to synod to establish its literary institution, not necessarily in York, but in the town from which the most advantageous offers might be received, whether in the way of subscription to the endowment or by the erection of necessary buildings.

Among the ministers present on this occasion was the Reverend Jacob Mayer, pastor of the Reformed congregation at Mercersburg.<sup>1</sup> That he conceived the idea of

<sup>1</sup> Jacob Mayer was born in Lykens Valley, Pa., September 15, 1798; and died in Lock Haven, October 29, 1872. He was successively pastor at Woodstock, Va., Shrewsbury, Pa., and Mercersburg and Greencastle, Pa. For eight years he was the financial agent of Marshall College and the Theological Seminary. He was not related to Dr. Lewis Mayer.

securing the location of the institutions for his place of residence, may almost be regarded as a stroke of genius. Mercersburg was a village of less than a thousand inhabitants, situated among the mountains of Franklin County. The people were mostly of Scotch-Irish descent, belonging to several branches of the Presbyterian church; but there was a small Union church in which the Reformed and Lutherans alternately worshiped. The Reformed congregation was not large, but it included a number of intelligent and influential families.

Under such circumstances few men would have ventured to undertake the task of making Mercersburg an important theological and educational center. Mr. Mayer was, however, a man of extraordinary energy, and every difficulty spurred him on to greater efforts. He succeeded in convincing the entire community that this was an opportunity which, if promptly embraced, would bring dignity and prosperity to their beloved town. Not only the members of the Reformed church, but Presbyterians and Seceders, Lutherans and Methodists, were equally enthusiastic, and there was no difficulty in securing subscriptions. Never before in the history of the town had there been such unanimity in sentiment and purpose. Even the Africans—who were very numerous—were affected by the prevailing enthusiasm, and are said to have inquired of every stranger: “When will the college come?”

When the synod met in Pittsburg, in September, 1834, the people of Mercersburg were ready with a subscription of \$10,000, and offered other substantial contributions if the institutions were removed to their town. The only additional proposals came from Chambersburg and Lancaster, but these appeared to be less liberal. As the num-

ber of delegates in attendance in Pittsburg was unusually small it was thought best to refer the question of removal to the consideration of a special Synod, to be held in Harrisburg in the following December. At this meeting a committee, of which the Rev. Dr. B. S. Schneck was chairman, was directed to visit the places from which proposals had been received, and to report at length in the following year.

The report which was presented at Chambersburg in 1835 was in some respects curious, and may even now be read with considerable interest. Its authors expressed their desire to be entirely impartial, and yet there are indications of a decided bias. Chambersburg had offered a subscription of \$4,500, together with the local Academy and a building known as the Hall. The committee, however, expressed a doubt whether the trustees had a legal right to transfer the property of the academy, and there were minor objections which we need not enumerate.

The invitation from Lancaster seemed cold and formal, and was decidedly objectionable because the trustees of Franklin College proposed to retain control of the united institution after the removal of the High School. It was suggested that though the Lancaster Board might elect Dr. Rauch to the presidency there was no assurance that his position would be permanent. Evidently, however, the committee did not fully appreciate the value of the offer from Lancaster. The assets of Franklin College were estimated at \$27,000, but it was cautiously suggested by the committee that the unsold lands of the College might have little actual value. We are not surprised that the proposal from Lancaster was rather coldly received, for in the form in which it was presented it was certainly not attractive.

Mercersburg, in the opinion of the committee, possessed excellencies which could not be too highly regarded. "The situation of the village is healthy; and on every side nature presents the most impressive and charming prospects." "Virtue and industry characterize the inhabitants—and board is cheap."<sup>1</sup>

The liberality of the people of Mercersburg is highly commended. "They have not only subscribed ten thousand dollars, but also offer to present to the institution a lot of ground bearing a stone building, and will provide dwellings for the professors until permanent residences are erected." "The latter propositions, it is true, have not been formally presented; but the committee is assured by the Reverend Jacob Mayer—who represents the people of Mercersburg—that these assurances are thoroughly reliable." The building which was thus offered was the so-called Academy, situated in the rear of the Presbyterian church.

On Friday afternoon, October 1, 1835, the question of removal was finally decided. On the first ballot it was found that neither of the places proposed had received a majority of votes, and the name of Chambersburg was withdrawn. The second ballot resulted in the selection of Mercersburg.

Immediately afterwards the following committee was appointed to superintend the removal of the Institutions to their new location: Rev. Henry L. Rice, Rev. John Rebough, Rev. William A. Good, and the elders, Heyser, King and Bantz. A board of trustees was also appointed, and directed to take general charge of the affairs of the

<sup>1</sup> These extracts are translated from the German edition of the Minutes of Synod, 1835.



High School, and as soon as possible to secure a collegiate charter. This board, as originally constituted, consisted of the following members: John E. Hoffman, of Reading; Daniel Shafer, William McKinstry, Elliott T. Lane, Dr. P. W. Little, William Metcalf and William Dick, of Mercersburg; George Besore, of Waynesboro; Frederick Smith, Barnard Wolff, John Smith, Hon. G. Chambers and Hon. A. Thomson, of Chambersburg; Hon. Peter Schell, of Bedford; David Krause, of Harrisburg; Peter Snyder, of Easton; David Middlekauff, of Adams county; and Henry Schnebly, of Greencastle.

The Synod ordered its property in York to be sold, and directed that the Institutions should be removed as soon as its committee had received satisfactory security for the payment of the subscriptions made in Mercersburg. Unfortunately, the latter direction appears to have been partially neglected; for truth compels us to state that the larger part of the Mercersburg subscriptions remained unpaid.

It had been proposed to remove both institutions immediately, but in regard to the Theological Seminary an unexpected difficulty appeared. It was believed that in case of removal the seminary would forfeit its charter, and the treasurer actually declined to pay the salaries of the professors unless the institution remained in York. The matter demanded legal investigation and more than a year passed before it became plain that there was no ground for fear. It was also known that Dr. Mayer did not desire to leave York, and so the removal of the seminary was delayed. In the case of the High School there were no such difficulties, and preparations were made for its immediate removal.





R. A. Ranch.

On a beautiful day in November, 1835, the students arrived in Mercersburg. Fourteen of them came in two stages, seven in each. "Four others were stragglers, who, with the faculty consisting of two professors, reached their place of destination in some other way. Seven of them were Diagnosthians and eleven Goetheans. This was about all that was left of the High School to be removed."<sup>1</sup>

The people of Mercersburg received the students with great kindness and did all in their power to make them feel at home. Evidently, however, the removal had been premature. The Academy needed extensive repairs, and for a while the school occupied an old frame building, a little west of the square, or "diamond," as it was generally called. This building, after the organization of the college, was for some time occupied by the preparatory department, and was finally destroyed by fire. The houses which had been promised to the professors were not ready, and during the first winter the school and its teachers suffered many privations.

Dr. Rauch and Professor Budd at first constituted the entire faculty. Fortunately both were versatile as well as learned, and taught uncomplainingly from morning till night. Dr. Rauch was not fond of text-books; and this, when we call to mind the character of the text-books which were generally used in those days, is certainly not surprising. Once, we have been told, he undertook to teach logic in the usual way; but after several unsatisfactory lessons he suddenly hurled the book across the room, and exclaimed: "I don't want it! I can teach you all that is in Aristotle without a book."

Professor Samuel W. Budd was a man of high culture

<sup>1</sup> Appel's "Recollections of College Life," p. 94.

and great ability. He was not only a fine mathematician, but possessed many social accomplishments which rendered him popular. Both professors were young, and—as Dr. Appel says—“looked out upon the world through gold-rimmed spectacles.”

The number of students rapidly increased and an application for a charter was made to the Legislature of Pennsylvania. It was a happy day when the news was brought to Mercersburg that Marshall College had been incorporated, and that the legislature had generously added an appropriation of ten thousand dollars to the endowment of the new institution.



## CHAPTER XIV.

### THE FIRST PRESIDENCY.

THE ORGANIZATION — PRESIDENT FREDERICK AUGUSTUS RAUCH —  
BIOGRAPHY AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS — PSYCHOLOGY  
— THE SEMINARY BUILDING — THE LAW SCHOOL —  
EARLY PROFESSORS — ARRIVAL OF DR. J. W.  
NEVIN — DEATH OF DR. RAUCH.

Marshall College is said in its charter to have been named “in testimony of respect for the exalted character, great worth, and high mental attainments of the late John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States.” Who it was that first suggested the name might now be difficult to



SEAL OF MARSHALL COLLEGE.

determine. There is a tradition that it was due to an agreement between several friends of the institution in Virginia; and it is altogether probable that Dr. Bernard C. Wolff, who was a native of Martinsburg in that state, was the actual sponsor.

The name of the college appears to have been accepted some time before the incorporation. Judge Marshall died at Philadelphia, July 6, 1835; but before his death he was informed that a college was to be named after him, and he is said to have been gratified by this information. The portrait which appeared on the seal was presented to the college by a member of his family.

Judge Marshall was recognized as the foremost American jurist, and the college that was founded in the year of his death was justly regarded as a proper monument to his memory.

The Board of Trustees of Marshall College held its first meeting in Mercersburg at the house of John Shaffer on the 12th of July, 1836. The Hon. Alexander Thomson was temporarily called to the chair; but when the board was permanently organized the Rev. Henry L. Rice was elected president. According to a plan which was then adopted, the new institution was to consist of two departments: the College and the Preparatory School. In the College provision was made for five departments of instruction: Ancient languages and literature, including Latin, Greek and Hebrew; mathematical and natural sciences, including chemistry, mineralogy, geology and botany; intellectual and moral sciences; belles lettres and history; and the German language and literature. It was resolved that Commencement should be annually celebrated on the last Wednesday in September, and that the winter session of the College should open in six weeks from that day.

The election for members of the Faculty was not exciting. Dr. Rauch and Professor Budd each received the compliment of a unanimous election. The former was elected president and professor of Hebrew, Greek and

German; the latter became professor of mathematics, natural philosophy, chemistry and mineralogy. Two additional professors were to be chosen as soon as a special committee was prepared to present suitable candidates.<sup>1</sup>

Frederick Augustus Rauch, Ph.D., who thus became the

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "F. A. Rauch." The letters are cursive and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

first president of Marshall College, was born at Kirchbracht, Hesse Darmstadt, July 27, 1806, and was the son of a Reformed pastor. Concerning his early life very little is known. He was fond of music and at an early age became an accomplished pianist. At the age of eighteen he entered the University of Marburg, where in 1827 he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Subsequently he spent a year at Giessen and another at Heidelberg. At the latter university he came under the personal influence of the celebrated eclectic philosopher and theologian, Charles Daub, who showed him much kindness and to whom he became warmly attached. Daub was not only a man of immense learning, but was recognized as one of the most profound thinkers of Germany. Though he could hardly be said to have formulated an independent system, he had studied and comprehended the works of all the great philosophers from Kant to Hegel, assimilating their dis-

<sup>1</sup> A professorship of mental and moral philosophy was offered to the Rev. Dr. Samuel A. Van Vranken, then pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., but the invitation was declined. Dr. Van Vranken was subsequently professor of didactic theology in the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick and also professor of Christian evidences and logic in Rutgers College. Dr. Corwin says concerning him: "He never made any special pretentious display of scholarship—not because he did not possess it but because he was above it."—*Manual of the Reformed Church in America*, p. 864.

coveries and rejecting their errors. As an instructor he was unequalled, and the brightest young men of the fatherland were inspired by his genius. "He was a man," says Dr. Nevin, "who lived for the invisible and the eternal, and on whose soul the visions of the Almighty, in the person of Jesus Christ, had unfolded their glory."

Having completed his course at the university Dr. Rauch served as professor-extraordinary at Giessen, and was then appointed to a full professorship in the department of metaphysics in the University of Heidelberg. This was a distinguished honor and seemed to open the way to a brilliant career. Dr. Rauch was at that time only twenty-four years old. "Such an appointment at so early an age," says Dr. Schiedt,<sup>1</sup> "has to my knowledge only once been repeated in this century—viz., in the case of Friedrich Nietzsche, who is by many considered the profoundest philosophical thinker of modern Germany."

Just at this time occurred the events by which the career of Dr. Rauch was entirely changed. He still retained many of the enthusiasms of his student days and on some public occasion said a word in behalf of the political fraternities (*Burschenschaften*) which existed among the students, but which the government was seeking to suppress. It was an imprudent act, as he afterwards confessed, but when the word had been spoken it could not be recalled. In such cases the government was merciless, and his only hope was in instant flight. After a brief interview with his father at midnight he hurried across the frontier, and as soon as possible sailed to America.

When Dr. Rauch arrived in this country, in 1831, he was almost destitute. He found his way to Easton, Pennsylvania, where he became German instructor in Lafayette

<sup>1</sup> "On the Threshold of a New Century," p. 27.

College, at the same time teaching music to a number of pupils in the town. Here he made the acquaintance of several Reformed ministers, and mainly through their influence became principal of the High School at York. That his work was appreciated is evident from the fact that he was chosen the first President of Marshall College.

It has been said that Dr. Rauch had enough enthusiasm to found a university. He rapidly acquired the English language and became an acceptable preacher. His learning and piety were undoubted; but there was in his nature a joyous element which endeared him to his students. The reminiscences of his own school-days were still fresh, and he could sympathize with boys who found it difficult to submit to strict scholastic discipline. Indeed, it might have been said of him, as it was of Loyola, that he made special efforts to gain the friendship of unruly boys and rarely failed to convert them to better things.

Once—it is related—while he occupied a room on the first floor of the college building, he was roused from sleep by a tremendous noise. In a few minutes the noise was repeated, and it became certain that some one was rolling a log down the circular stairs from an upper story. Hastily dressing, the Doctor left his room, and taking his place in a corner of the hall, watched for the offender. Very soon a student, whom he recognized, stole down the stairs with the evident purpose of securing the log and repeating the exercise. The Doctor made an attempt to catch him, but before he could succeed the student—pretending not to recognize the professor—turned upon him and, shaking him violently, exclaimed: “Who are you, anyhow? I could not sleep on account of the noise, and have come down to see what is the matter. I’ll report you to Dr.



Rauch—that's what I'll do!" At this the Doctor could no longer restrain himself and burst into loud laughter. "Go to your room," he said, "and I will see you in the morning." Next day he called the student aside and whispered: "I ought to punish you for that affair last night, but it was too funny. Don't tell anybody—let us keep it a secret!"

This may have been poor discipline, but somehow the President found the way to the student's heart.

As a lecturer Dr. Rauch was absolutely splendid. He possessed the unusual gift of making difficult things appear easy, at the same time adorning them with the choicest flowers of poetry.

It was, of course, as a teacher of mental and moral science that he excelled. Though in philosophy he was accounted a Hegelian he had experienced Schleiermacher's sense of dependence, and was not without sympathy for the mysticism of Schelling. As he himself said, there was no reason why the wonderful discoveries of German philosophers should be rejected on account of the occasional aberrations of their promoters. It was his purpose to introduce the study of German thought to the attention of American thinkers, and to this end he worked with all his might. In 1840 he published his "Psychology—a View of the Human Soul," which was intended to be the first of a series treating of the same general subject. As was said in the preface it was "the first attempt to unite German and American mental philosophy," and as such it was enthusiastically received by the most competent critics. It was recognized as a work of genius, and became a textbook in many literary institutions. Though now superseded for purposes of instruction, it occupies a position in

the history of education of which it can never be deprived. It was Dr. Rauch who in America introduced the study of psychology as a distinct science.

In his domestic relations Dr. Rauch was unusually fortunate. His wife was a woman of great ability and force of character. She was a daughter of Loammi Moore, of Morristown, New Jersey, and a younger sister of Mrs. Sarah A. Young, the widow of the Reverend Daniel Young, who had been in York, a professor in the Theological Seminary. Mrs. Young had established a select school for girls in Mercersburg, and it was there that Dr. Rauch made the acquaintance of her sister.<sup>1</sup>

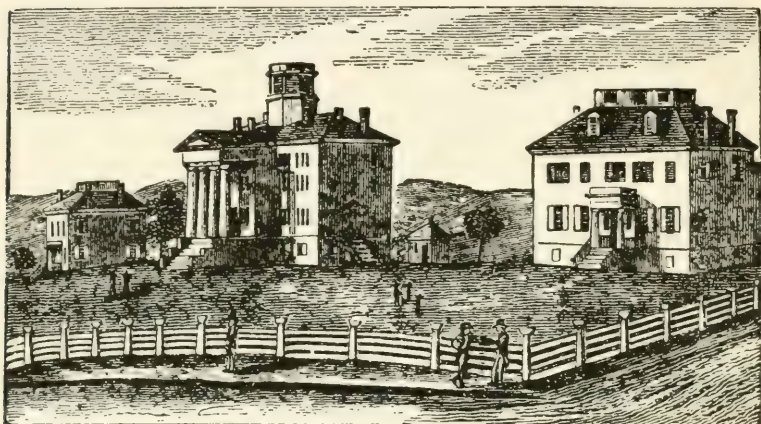
Mrs. Rauch became her husband's assistant in many ways, and was his competent instructor in the use of the English language. By the students she was always regarded with profound respect.

The labors which Dr. Rauch was called to perform were numerous and varied. Immediately after the removal to Mercersburg the synod authorized the erection of a building for the theological seminary. This building, it was

<sup>1</sup> The Moore family was intimately connected with the early history of Marshall College, especially on account of the marriage of several of the daughters, all of whom were women of remarkable intellectual ability. The author is, therefore, pleased to reproduce an extract from a letter of Dr. Edgar Moore Green, dated November 10, 1902. Dr. Green says:

"My grandfather, Loammi Moore, married Huldah Byram, and had the following children: Sarah Ann married Silas Pierson; after his death she married the Rev. Daniel Young. Naphtali Byram married Eliza Woolfolk. Susan Maria married Caleb D. Baldwin. Phebe Bathiah married the Rev. Dr. F. A. Rauch; after his death she married Dr. John P. Hiester. Abby Elizabeth married the Rev. Andrew S. Young; after his death she married Professor James Henry Coffin. William Henry married Annie E. Irwin. Harriet married Dr. Traill Green. James Edgar died unmarried." Several other children died in infancy.

understood, was to be of sufficient size to accommodate both the seminary and college until the number of students should render the erection of a college-building imperative. Dr. Rauch's peculiar relation to both institutions rendered him the natural superintendent of the work, though he was ably assisted by William McKinstry, Daniel Shafer, James O. Carson, and other residents of Mercersburg.



THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN MERCERSBURG.

The Seminary Building was erected in the summer of 1836. The grounds, originally consisting of four acres at the eastern end of the village, were purchased of Mr. William McKinstry for \$500, which was the exact amount of his subscription. The contractor and builder was Nicholas Pearce, of Chambersburg. He undertook to put up the building for \$9,500, leaving the basement and upper story unfinished, engaging at the same time to complete the unfinished stories for \$1,600. As the building was at once completed we may conclude that its cost, according to the contract, was \$11,100; but as the contractor complained

that he had lost money, the synod in 1837 made him a free gift of \$400. There may possibly have been other extras; but the building was substantial and beautiful, and the cost was almost incredibly low. According to the report presented to synod, in 1837, it contained forty-four rooms, besides spacious corridors extending the whole length of the building; thirty-four rooms were to be occupied by students, and there were also a chapel, a library, four recitation rooms, a refectory, and rooms for the steward and his family. The building was entirely completed in December, 1837. In the same year one of the professors' houses was erected, and the other was completed in the subsequent summer. As soon as the building was completed it was leased, by order of synod, to Marshall College, the Seminary retaining only the use of such rooms as it absolutely needed. In lieu of rent the Seminary received for each room occupied by a college student a fee of \$2.50 in summer and \$3.50 in winter.

The first severe blow which fell upon the young institution was the unexpected death of the president of its Board of Trustees, the Rev. Henry L. Rice,<sup>1</sup> of Chambersburg. He had been enthusiastically devoted to the work of establishing the new college, and in a few months had by personal solicitation collected nearly six thousand dollars. His death was believed to have been caused by labor and exposure. Dr. Rauch delivered his eulogy which was published and extensively circulated. Col. David Schnebly

<sup>1</sup> Henry Leffler Rice was born in Washington county, Pa., June 25, 1795, and died at Chambersburg, Pa., May 3, 1837. He was graduated at Troy University, 1818, and studied theology at Princeton. After serving as missionary in the west he became pastor of the Reformed (Dutch) Church at Spotswood, N. J., Pastor of German Reformed Church, Chambersburg, 1834-37.



became the successor of Mr. Rice as President of the Board of Trustees.

There was some difficulty in securing a professor of Ancient Languages and Belles Lettres; but on November 13, 1836, the Rev. Joseph F. Berg,<sup>1</sup> of Harrisburg, accepted the position. He remained in Mercersburg about a year, resigning September 27, 1837. As a teacher he was not very successful, and when he resigned the Board interposed no objection, though it formally protested against the suddenness of his departure. He does not seem to have liked Mercersburg, and possibly that mountain village did not furnish a field for the exercise of his peculiar talents.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. F. Berg". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered below the main text block.

When Dr. Berg resigned Mr. Edward Bourne was temporarily engaged to fill his professorship. He was a graduate of the University of Dublin, and his scholarship was, of course, beyond dispute; but he was eccentric, and though the students liked him they laughed at him. One of his peculiarities was to fill his pockets with silver coin, and

<sup>1</sup> Joseph Frederick Berg, D.D., LL.D., was born June 3, 1812, on the island of Antigua, W. I., where his father was a Moravian missionary; and died, July 20, 1871, at New Brunswick, N. J. He was educated in England and at the Moravian Seminary. Having connected himself with the German Reformed Church he became, in 1835, pastor in Harrisburg. After leaving Mercersburg he was called to the pastorate of the Race Street church, Philadelphia, where he remained until 1852. Having become involved in a controversy with the theological professors at Mercersburg, he joined the Reformed Dutch Church and served for nine years as pastor of the church at Seventh and Brown Streets, Philadelphia, and then became professor of Didactic and Polemic Theology of New Brunswick. He was a powerful controversialist and voluminous author.



when he walked or talked he amused himself by jingling his money.

The Reverend Albert Smith, of Williamstown, Mass., was elected professor of ancient languages, April 14, 1837. The ministers of the Board declare him to have been a graduate of the University of Cambridge and "preëminently qualified for his position." His inaugural address—delivered at Commencement, September 26, 1838—was certainly a production of a very superior order. It was not only printed but enjoyed the extraordinary honor of a second edition.

In 1838 Professor Smith was granted the privilege of nominating an assistant, and at his suggestion David T. Stoddard, of New Haven, Conn., was appointed tutor. He was, we believe, a near relative of Professor Smith. Mr. Stoddard's scholarship could not be questioned, but he seems in some way to have provoked the hostility of the students, and they were merciless. He remained but a single year. Professor Smith held his professorship until 1840, and then returned to New England. He was highly esteemed, but it is said that he could never become quite reconciled to the "Anglo-German" character of Marshall College. On the 29th of September, 1840, the Board elected as his successor, William M. Nevin, Esq., then of Sewickley, Pa. Professor Nevin's long and faithful labors are still affectionately remembered, and we shall have frequent occasion to refer to them in subsequent chapters.

It was fortunate for the new institution that among the earliest students there were a number of talented young men who were able to assist in teaching. Several of these, after graduation, served as tutors in the college or academy while they were students in the theological seminary.

Here we need mention only the names of such men as John H. A. Bomberger, E. V. Gerhart, Andrew S. Young, Moses Kieffer and George H. Martin, all of whom subsequently became eminent in their chosen profession.

The Law School was established at Chambersburg in February, 1838, and the Hon. Alexander Thomson was elected professor of law. Judge Thomson was one of the most learned jurists in the country, and a number of students read law in his office. As he was an enthusiastic friend of Marshall College, and a prominent member of its Board of Trustees, it was suggested that he should organize a Law School and "give instruction to graduates of the college and other young gentlemen" who might desire to prepare themselves for the legal profession. This school, which was maintained in Chambersburg until the death of Judge Thomson, in 1848, was not closely connected with the institutions in Mercersburg; but the students who had completed their course were annually graduated by Marshall College, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Among these graduates was the Hon. John Scott, U. S. Senator from 1869 to 1875, and subsequently General Solicitor of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks, Vice-President of the United States, was a nephew of Judge Thomson and completed his legal studies in his uncle's school, but for some unexplained reason he appears never to have been formally graduated.

The Theological Seminary and College continued to occupy the same building and their relations were necessarily intimate. In the Seminary there were theological disagreements; but it is not in our province to examine them in detail. In a general way it may be said that two

types of theology were there represented, and when they came into contact there was considerable friction. As the main subjects of discussion were theological, even the college students assumed to be theologians; and it has been said that it was almost impossible to keep the Freshmen from preaching. Dr. Mayer, in 1839, finally withdrew from his professorship, and for a time the seminary and college were both conducted by Dr. Rauch.<sup>1</sup>

Not only on account of the prevailing theological influence, but because the building was actually overcrowded, the Board, in 1838, resolved to erect a suitable edifice for the accommodation of the college. A tract of land, including some six or seven acres at the southern end of the village, was accordingly purchased from Mrs. Brownson for one thousand dollars, and no one doubted that the College would soon be built.

At this point the Preparatory Department presented its claims with renewed vigor. It had hitherto occupied a miserable, frame structure in the western part of the village, and the students had been compelled to take lodgings wherever they could find them. It was justly urged that the college could not hope to prosper without a good acad-

<sup>1</sup> The number of students in the College rapidly increased. Many of these were prepared for admission at local academies, which were then numerous. One of the most successful preceptors in early days was the Rev. Bayard R. Hall, of Bedford, Pa., who prepared many students for Marshall. Among these were such well known men as David H. Hofius, W. P. Schell, John Cessna, Francis Jordan, Jacob Schell, Oliver C. Hartley and Rufus K. Hartley. The Hartleys came from Bloody Run, and while at College the boys accordingly nick-named them "Old Bloody" and "Young Bloody." They subsequently removed to Texas, where they became eminent. Oliver C. Hartley published first the "Digest of the Laws of Texas," and, assisted by his brother, prepared many volumes of Supreme Court Reports. Hartley County, Texas, has been named in his honor.

emy, and that the necessities of the latter institution were more immediate and pressing. As the means at hand were not sufficient for the erection of both buildings there was some disagreement as to the institution which deserved preference, and so the matter dragged on for several years. At last, on the 8th of January, 1841, the building occupied by the Preparatory Department was destroyed by fire. How this happened will probably forever remain a secret. It occurred exactly at the hour for morning prayers, and the boys, of course, hurried away to see the blaze. There was, however, one exceedingly devout student who had already taken his seat and seemed unaffected by the prevailing confusion. As the crowd rushed past the door some one called to him: "Won't you go to the fire?" "Why!" he replied in innocent surprise, "Won't we have prayers first?"

It costs a great deal of money to found a literary institution, and the work at Mercersburg could hardly have been accomplished without the beneficence of the State. In 1836, as already remarked, the Legislature of Pennsylvania had granted to Marshall College an appropriation of \$10,000, which was afterwards increased to \$12,000. In consideration of this gift the college was required to instruct twenty poor students free of charge. The amount secured by Henry L. Rice and Bernard C. Wolff was reported in 1840 to have nearly reached \$21,000, and including the appropriations of the State and the contributions secured by Jacob Mayer, Daniel Bossler and other agents we may estimate at the utmost the sum received by the college in the first five years of its existence at about \$50,000. A large portion of this amount was secured by the sale of perpetual scholarships which entitled the holder to



designate a student to receive free tuition. The sale of scholarships afforded immediate financial aid, but it naturally decreased the number of students who paid tuition, and its ultimate advantage may be regarded as questionable.

From our present point of view the resources of the college at this early day appear insignificant; but when we remember that—apart from the State appropriation—the individual contributions were small, the amount was at least creditable. It was the gift of a rustic community that had been trained to habits of the strictest economy. In those days a pastor who received an annual salary of four hundred dollars was regarded as “passing rich”; and the writer can vouch for an instance in which a minister in such circumstances for several years contributed one fourth of his annual salary to the support of the college. With all that could be done, there often was financial trouble in Mercersburg; and there is a tradition that once, at a time of unusual depression, a worthy minister was so greatly impressed by the gravity of the occasion, that he rose in his seat at synod and seriously offered to divide with Dr. Rauch his slender stock of meal and potatoes.

As has already been stated the general tone of the college was serious, if not theological. That there were, however, occasional cases that demanded serious discipline, is evident from the records of the Faculty. In 1838 two students were with difficulty restrained from fighting a duel; and in the following year a boy—who is said to have been very young and to have been under the special care of the president—was found guilty of dissipation; and it was ordered that he should be “confined for one week, without dinner, and deprived of pocket-money to the end of the session.”



The following miscellaneous extracts from the records may possibly prove interesting:

On the 15th of August, 1837, the Hon. B. Champneys, of Lancaster, delivered an address before the Literary Societies. This was the first of a long series, known as "biennial addresses" because the orators are alternately elected by the literary societies.

In 1838 it was ordered that a German oration should be delivered at every subsequent Commencement. In the same years circulars were ordered to be sent to parents, reporting the grade of students in scholarship and conduct. The Faculty adopted the system of marks and demerits which was in use at Yale College, and it was ordered by the Board that the Laws of Princeton College, in so far as they were applicable, should be adopted for the government of the institution.

The Rev. Dr. John Williamson Nevin arrived in Mercersburg, with his family, in the spring of 1840. He had previously been elected Professor of Didactic Theology in the seminary as the successor of Dr. Mayer. To Dr. Rauch his coming brought relief from a part of his labor in the seminary, and at the same time secured him the blessing of congenial companionship. The two men were as different as possible in disposition and early training; but they soon learned to appreciate each other's talents and personal excellence, and became intimate friends. In a letter to the Rev. Charles F. McCauley Dr. Rauch said: "Our seminary possesses a man in Professor Nevin whose talents and learning and scientific spirit are not equaled by any one in this country. I say this with deliberateness and coolness. He is an excellent teacher, constantly active, and much experienced in ecclesiastical affairs." Long

afterwards Dr. Nevin said of Dr. Rauch in a public address: "I perceived soon that his learning and intellectual power were of a higher order altogether than I had before felt authorized to expect. . . . I could not but look upon it as a strange and interesting fact that the infant college of the German Reformed Church should have placed at its head, there in Mercersburg—without care or calculation or consciousness even on the part of its friends generally—one of the very first minds of Germany, which under other circumstances might well have been counted an ornament and honor to the oldest institution in the land."

These intimate relations continued for less than a year, but their permanent influence on the thinking of Dr. Nevin has never been doubted. The latter had indeed given some attention to German philosophy before he came to Mercersburg, but it was Dr. Rauch who showed him a path through its tangled mazes.

It had for some time been observed that the health of Dr. Rauch was not robust, but no evil consequences were anticipated. He himself ascribed his condition to the fact that he had neglected to take sufficient exercise. Dr. Appel says that when Dr. Rauch was thirty-three years old he looked like a man of fifty. Constant mental labor, without relaxation, was no doubt the principal cause of his early decline. As he grew weaker he sometimes instructed his classes in his private room, reclining upon a couch; but as yet no one dreamed that he was suffering from more than a passing indisposition.

Suddenly, on the morning of March 2, 1841, it was announced that Dr. Rauch had died. That this was a heavy blow to the institution may easily be imagined. Old men, who were students then, declare that in all their lives they

have never felt another shock that was so dreadful and depressing. Everything had depended on Dr. Rauch, and it was feared that unless immediate action were taken there was danger that his work might go to pieces. The Faculty accordingly held an immediate meeting and requested Dr. John W. Nevin, of the Theological Seminary to assume the presidency until other arrangements could be made. He accepted the invitation and from that moment another administration may be said to have begun.

Dr. Rauch was buried on the college grounds in a place which had been set apart for a college cemetery. A monument which was then erected now stands in front of the Reformed church of Mercersburg. In 1859 his remains were removed to Lancaster, where his grave is marked by an appropriate memorial.

Of course, at the time of Dr. Rauch's burial there were eulogies and addresses, several of which were published, and the records contain many expressions of sorrow. We doubt, however, whether even the best friends of Marshall College fully recognized the greatness of its first president.

## CHAPTER XV.

### THE SECOND PRESIDENCY.

PRESIDENT JOHN WILLIAMSON NEVIN — PROFESSOR WILLIAM M.  
NEVIN — DR. TRAILL GREEN — PROFESSORS PORTER, BAIRD AND  
APPEL — DR. PHILIP SCHAFF — A BRILLIANT RECEP-  
TION — LITERARY LABORS — PECULIAR PEOPLE  
— RECREATIONS.

Though Dr. Nevin assumed the duties of the presidency in March, 1841, immediately after the death of Dr. Rauch, his relation to Marshall College was not immediately regarded as permanent. He was a professor in the theological seminary, and to that institution he owed his first allegiance. If the synod that placed him there should grant permission he was willing to assume the direction of the College; but this was to be regarded as voluntary labor for which he would accept no salary.

The Board of Trustees appears to have found some difficulty in defining this somewhat peculiar relation. On the 6th of April, 1841, he was unanimously elected "President of Marshall College until a successor shall be appointed." Subsequently the permission of the authorities of the Seminary, for this extra service on the part of a member of its Faculty, was asked and granted; and finally the Synod, to which the whole matter had been referred, declared itself satisfied with the appointment of Dr. Nevin; but at the same time expressed a hope that the finances of the College would soon be in such a condition as to render it possible to relieve him by electing another president.<sup>1</sup>

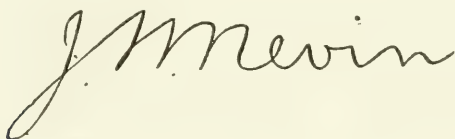
<sup>1</sup> Dr. Nevin received no compensation in money for his services in the College for nine years, at least. The Board frequently passed

As it was during the presidency of Dr. Nevin that Marshall College attained its highest celebrity and usefulness, it is proper to say something concerning his earlier history. John Williamson Nevin was born February 20, 1803, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania. He was of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and several of his forefathers were eminent in church and state. His paternal grandmother was a sister of Hugh Williamson, LL.D., a signer of the Constitution of the United States. The family were strict Presbyterians, and most of them have remained closely attached to their ancestral form of faith. His father was a farmer, but had been graduated at Dickinson College in the days of Dr. Nesbit, and was a good classical scholar. He put the Latin grammar into his son's hands at an early age, informing him in unmistakable language that it was a thing that *must* be studied. The boy was but fourteen years old when he was matriculated as a student of Union College at Schenectady, New York—then under the presidency of Dr. Nott. Though he graduated with honor in 1821, his health appeared to be utterly broken, and for several years it was feared that his scholastic career was ended. His health, however, improved, and in 1823 he entered the Theological Seminary at Princeton. Here his ability and scholarship were at once recognized; and when he had completed his course he was, in 1826, invited to supply temporarily the place of Dr. Hodge who spent two years in resolutions expressive of its appreciation of his "magnanimity" and occasionally offered him a modest testimonial. In 1843 they made him a present of three scholarships—supposed to be worth \$1,500—which we may be sure he never sold. They also declined to accept payment of his subscription of \$500 to the endowment of the College. After 1847 he was granted the free use of a house which had been built on the College grounds; and in 1851, when he resigned his position in the Seminary, the college board agreed to make itself responsible for a salary of one thousand dollars.



Europe. During this time he wrote his "Biblical Antiquities," a book which was subsequently published in numberless editions.

Before leaving Princeton, in 1828, Dr. Nevin had been selected to fill the chair of Biblical Literature in the Western Theological Seminary in Allegheny, where he labored for twelve years. Having been ordained to the ministry he supplied neighboring congregations, and also edited a paper, called *The Friend*. Many of his sermons were published, and he became widely known for strength and courage. Having become interested in German literature he persevered until he was able to read the language with remarkable fluency. He was, indeed, among the first in this country to plead for the more general study of German philosophy and theology.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. M. Nevin". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered below the paragraph.

In 1835 Dr. Nevin was married to Martha, second daughter of the Hon. Robert Jenkins, of Windsor Place, Lancaster county. She proved a worthy consort to her distinguished husband, whom she survived; and for her talents, her culture, and her genial hospitality she is still respectfully remembered.

The circumstances attendant upon Dr. Nevin's call to Mercersburg are so well known that we need not consider them in detail. He was elected to his professorship by the Synod of the Reformed Church convened in Chambersburg in January, 1840. That the Synod should have chosen a minister of another denomination to occupy its most im-

portant professorship has always appeared inexplicable. The Rev. S. R. Fisher was the only member of the body who had ever heard him preach, and beyond a vague report that he was studying German theology, he appears to have been almost unknown. His nomination was a surprise, but as one of the members of the Synod afterwards said, "it came like a divine inspiration." The names of other candidates were withdrawn, and Dr. Nevin was unanimously elected.

Rev. Samuel R. Fisher and Rev. Benjamin S. Schneck were appointed a committee to present the call. In the depth of winter they crossed the mountains in a sleigh, though most of their friends believed that their efforts would be fruitless. The result proved that Mr. Fisher was right when he said at Synod: "If we can satisfy Dr. Nevin that it is his *duty* to take charge of the professorship at Mercersburg, the whole Presbyterian Church combined cannot prevent him from doing so." He accepted the call as a matter of duty, believing that the Lord was sending him on a mission to a special work. In taking this step he had the full approval of Dr. Archibald Alexander and other leading Presbyterians, who regarded him as simply passing from one branch of the Reformed Confession to another which offered a more promising field of usefulness. He did not, however, accept the call in any half-hearted way. In his letter of acceptance he said: "I give myself wholly to the German Reformed Church, and find no difficulty in making her interests my own." From the first he so completely identified himself with German thought and life that the Reformed Church accepted him with unreserved confidence.

Dr. Nevin was at this time thirty-seven years of age.



*J. M. Mevin*



An idea of his appearance in these early days may be gained by studying the portrait painted by Eichholtz in 1841, and afterwards engraved by Sartain. He was tall and slender, and was always faultlessly dressed in black. His features were strong but regular and his forehead was unusually high. In manner he was somewhat stern, and students were at first inclined to be afraid of him; but they soon learned to reciprocate the affection with which he regarded them. Though his courtesy never descended to familiarity he was ready to perform the humblest service in behalf of those who actually suffered. The Rev. H. A. Winter, of Madison, Wisconsin, relates that when he came to Mercersburg—a poor German immigrant—Dr. Nevin received him into his house and personally bathed his frozen feet.<sup>1</sup>

As a teacher Dr. Nevin was unequalled, especially in the department of Mental and Moral Philosophy. He possessed the rare power of reproducing the profoundest thoughts of the great German philosophers in such a way as to render them fascinating to thinking minds. Sometimes he impressed his lessons on the minds of his students in a manner that might almost be called dramatic. Once, it is said, he concluded a lecture in the following words: "We have now come to the greatest of all questions: 'How did evil come into the world?' Here all philosophy ceases—the class is dismissed."

When students read essays in his presence he was quick to detect and reprove any approach to the "spread-eagle" style which was then so common. A rather dull freshman inserted a pompous and inflated sentence into his wearisome platitudes. "Where did you get that?" inquired the

<sup>1</sup>"Die Vorhut der Lippischen Auswanderer, 1846," p. 4.



Doctor. "From a novel called Stanley," was the reply. "I thought so," was the response, "it is worthless stuff—Go on, sir." The boys were astonished at their teacher's acuteness, failing to realize that he could discover the plagiarism as readily as they could have detected a crimson patch on a dingy garment.

On another occasion a youthful essayist spoke of "climbing the ladder of transcendentalism to regions of unexplored fancy." "Come down!" said the Doctor. "Your ladder will fall."

Professor William M. Nevin who, as we have seen, became the successor of Professor Smith in the department of Ancient Languages, was a younger brother of President John W. Nevin. He was a graduate of Dickinson College and had been admitted to the bar. He was a fine classical scholar and a lifelong student of English Litera-

*Wm. M. Nevin*

ture. That he was highly esteemed is indicated by the fact that he held a professorship in our institution for more than fifty years—serving as professor of Ancient Language in Marshall and Franklin and Marshall College until 1872 when he was elected Alumni professor of English Literature and Belles Lettres, which position he held until death terminated his labors. In 1886 he was made *Professor Emeritus*, but it was his pleasure to continue to lecture until within a few weeks of his death, which occurred February 11, 1892, when he had reached the mature age of eighty-six years and four months.

No teacher was ever more loved than Professor Nevin. In manner he was gentle and somewhat reserved, but he

was at the same time gifted with a rich vein of humor that rendered his conversation exceedingly pleasant. He wrote many beautiful lyric poems, which deserve to be collected, and his metrical translations of some of the Odes of Horace are among the best that we have seen. In the days when the anniversary exercises of the literary societies were introduced by metrical prologues, he was kept busy in preparing such compositions. Occasionally he could not refrain from poking a little fun at the theologians who then seemed to be in absolute control. In a letter accepting an invitation to write a prologue, he says: "I hope you will expect nothing broadly humorous. In these churchly times its presentation would hardly be tolerated by the church."

Mild as he was, the students were in those days thoroughly convinced that Professor Nevin was equal to every occasion, and that, in fact, he was not to be trifled with. He had a curious way of asking what appeared to be leading questions in Greek or Latin, inquiring "Is it not so?" and when the student had responded in the affirmative, blandly replying, "No, sir, it is not so."

Once, it is said, he declined to excuse a class that was determined to enjoy an excursion, as the sleighing was good. The boys met in the recitation-room before the arrival of the professor, and some of them undertook to play the old trick of stuffing the stove-pipe, so that the room might be filled with smoke, and a recitation rendered impossible. Anticipating something of the kind the professor waited until the trick was complete, and then entered the room, apparently without taking notice of its condition. Calling in the boys, who were gathered outside in a laughing group, he directed them to their seats; then taking his stand in the entry, where there was plenty of fresh air, he

lectured to them through the open door for a full hour, while they were choking in the smoke. It was a lesson which they never forgot.

In the earlier years of Dr. Nevin's presidency there were several changes in the Faculty. Dr. Traill Green<sup>1</sup> was elected Professor of Natural Sciences, April 21, 1841, and held this position until September, 1848. His ability was fully recognized and he was always treated with great respect. Though he did not at this time regularly practice medicine he was the medical counsellor of the students, and his advice was often solicited in important cases. Though chemistry was his favorite study he was an excellent botanist, and his students accompanied him on many long walks among the mountains. As has been well said of him:

"In the broadest and best sense he was ever a teacher—a teacher of the people, young and old, in all matters pertaining to their best interests; a teacher of teachers who lived and taught as they had been inspired by him."<sup>2</sup>

When Dr. Green resigned there was some difficulty in securing an acceptable successor. In November, 1849, an invitation was extended to Dr. William Mayburry, of Philadelphia; and when he declined Dr. J. B. Rodgers, of the University of Pennsylvania, was requested to deliver

<sup>1</sup> Traill Green was born, Easton, Pa., May 25, 1813, and died there, April 29, 1897. He was educated under the special care of Dr. John Van Derveer, and graduated in medicine, in 1835, at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor in Lafayette College, 1837-41; Marshall College, 1841-48; Lafayette College, the second time, 1848-97. During his later years he successively occupied several professorships in Lafayette College and also practiced medicine. In 1890-91 he was the Acting President of the latter institution. He was a member of many learned societies, and was the author of numerous treatises on scientific subjects.

<sup>2</sup> "In Memoriam," p. 64.

an annual course of lectures on chemistry. It was not until the spring of 1849 that the Reverend Thomas C. Porter,<sup>1</sup> of Reading, Pa., became professor of Natural Sciences. He was a brilliant man and holds a prominent place in the history of the institution.

On the 23d of September, 1846, Professor Samuel W. Budd, Jr., died after a short illness. He had been connected with the institution since its beginning and his loss was greatly deplored. The Resolutions adopted by the Board express profound sympathy for his young wife, and for his father who was then still living.

An effort was made to secure the services of the Rev. George W. Schenk, of Princeton, to be Mr. Budd's successor as Professor of Mathematics, and when he declined a call was extended to Thomas D. Baird, principal of a school in Baltimore. The latter entered upon the duties of his professorship in January, 1847. As a teacher he was successful, but in 1849 he resigned and in March, 1850, returned to Baltimore. He was subsequently actively engaged in philanthropic work.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Conrad Porter, D.D., LL.D., was born January 22, 1822, at Alexandria, Pa.; died at Easton, Pa., April 27, 1901. Graduated at Lafayette College and studied theology at Princeton. Pastor Monticello, Ga., 1847; Second Reformed Church, Reading, 1848-49; First Reformed Church, Easton, Pa., 1877-84. Professor Marshall College, 1849-53; F. and M. College, 1853-66; Lafayette College, 1866-1901. A distinguished botanist and voluminous author.

<sup>2</sup> In 1857 Professor Baird became president of the Boys' Central High School which through his influence, became the Baltimore City College. He died at Baltimore, July 9, 1873. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Backus, at the Central Presbyterian Church, corner of Liberty and Saratoga Streets. The scholars of the Baltimore City College, one hundred and seventy-five in number, attended the funeral. Professor Baird was an active member of the Maryland Bible Society, Prisoner's Aid Society and other benevolent associations. See *Baltimore News*, July 11, 1873. Also *History of Education in Maryland*, published by the U. S. Bureau of Education, p. 207.

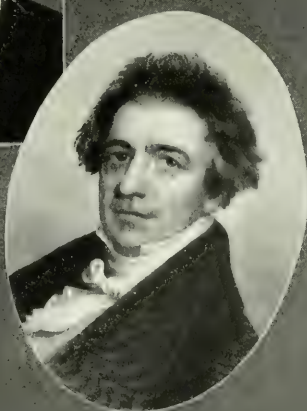
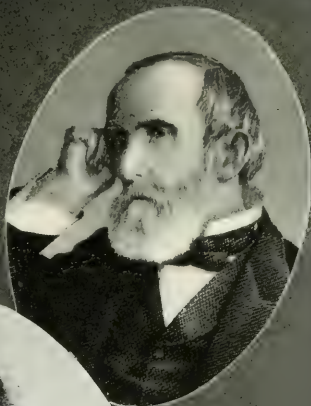
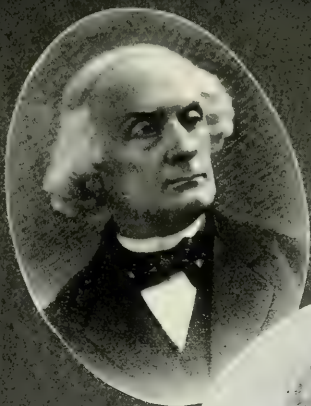


After the resignation of Professor Baird the department of mathematics was for two years supplied by tutors. In 1851 the Rev. Theodore Appel—who was at that time pastor of the Reformed Church of Mercersburg—accepted the position and for some time united in one person the offices of pastor and professor. It need hardly be said that his united salaries would at present hardly be regarded as sufficient to support a student comfortably at college. Dr. Appel labored faithfully and with great self-denial, as a professor both in Mercersburg and Lancaster, until 1877, since which time he has lived in retirement.

The arrival in Mercersburg of the Rev. Dr. Philip Schaff was to the student an event of the greatest possible interest. It is true, of course, that Dr. Schaff was called to be a professor in the Theological Seminary; but on April 11, 1844, he was elected Professor of German in the college, and after this date he held both positions. In fact, his relations with the college were in many ways so intimate that he deserves a prominent place in the history of the institution. To make this plain it is necessary to go back a little for the purpose of considering the circumstances under which he was called to America.

Immediately after the death of Dr. Rauch there had been a general desire that an eminent German theologian should be called to take his place in the seminary. It was not, however, until January, 1843, that the synod agreed to extend a call to the Rev. Dr. F. W. Krummacher, of Elberfeld, Prussia. As Krummacher was at that time the most celebrated preacher in Europe, it is somewhat surprising that the synod should have ventured to invite him to come to Mercersburg, but there had been previous correspondence, and it was known that he was not disinclined





TRAILL GREEN.

WILLIAM M. NEVIN.

PHILIP SCHAFF.  
THOMAS C. PORTER

JOSEPH F. BERG.

ALEXANDER THOMSON.

MARSHALL COLLEGE PROFESSORS.



to make the change. In order that the call might be presented in the most impressive manner the Rev. Dr. Benjamin S. Schneck and Theodore L. Hoffeditz were appointed commissioners to go to Germany and by all proper representations to urge Dr. Krummacher to accept the invitation.

This mission naturally attracted much attention; but it was soon found that the German church would not agree to the removal of its greatest pastor. Though Dr. Krummacher himself was not unwilling to accompany the delegates, the King of Prussia actually forbade it.<sup>1</sup> Unwilling to have made their journey in vain the commissioners then appealed to the leading theologians of Germany to sug-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phil. Schaff". The signature is written in dark ink and features a long, sweeping flourish that extends from the bottom of the name.

gest a proper candidate for the vacant professorship at Mercersburg, and after long deliberation they agreed to recommend Dr. Philip Schaff,<sup>2</sup> who was at that time a *private docent* in the University of Berlin.

<sup>1</sup> The kings of Prussia were generous benefactors of the Theological Seminary. Frederick William III. had given money and books to the institution, while it was at Carlisle; and on this occasion his successor, Frederick William IV.—though he was unwilling to part with his favorite preacher—handed the Commissioners an unsolicited donation of fifteen hundred Prussian thalers—equal at the prevailing rates of exchange to \$975 in American currency. In accordance with the suggestion of the donor this sum was applied to the payment of the expenses of the Commissioners, and a small balance was expended in the purchase of books for the Library.

<sup>2</sup> Philip Schaff was born at Chur, Switzerland, January 1, 1819; died in New York, October 20, 1893. Professor at Mercersburg, 1844–63. Secretary of Sabbath Committee, 1863–69; and after 1870 Professor of Sacred Literature in Union Theological Seminary. He was the author and editor of more than fifty volumes.

The candidate was only twenty-four years of age, but he had already distinguished himself as a historian and author. The American synod elected him professor of theology on the 19th of October and in the following year he came to America.

That the calling of a theological professor should have caused so much excitement as almost to render it a "national affair" is now hardly credible; but this was actually the case. No immigrant was ever—for better or worse—more thoroughly advertised. Perhaps Dr. Schaff himself may have been somewhat imprudent. He preached a sermon in Germany in which he spoke rather freely of the moral character of recent emigration to America; and as garbled extracts from this discourse soon found their way to this country the foreign element was greatly excited, and in the West indignation meetings were actually held.

Such opposition naturally failed to accomplish its purpose. It actually incited the friends of the institutions to greet the new professor with expressions of joy that to strangers might have seemed extravagant. When he arrived at Mercersburg, August 12, 1844, the whole village was prepared to bid him welcome. A committee had been sent to meet him in Greencastle; but in the meantime the students and their friends had placed emblems of rejoicing in every available place. A triumphal arch was placed over the entrance to the campus, and long festoons of evergreen were twined around the massive pillars that supported the porch of the Seminary. The students met the professor a short distance from the village and stood with uncovered heads while he passed between their double line. It was twilight, and almost immediately all the windows in the buildings connected with the institutions, and many

others, were brightly illuminated. It has been described as a brilliant sight, and we do not doubt it. When the procession arrived at the Seminary there was an English address by a member of the Senior class, Mr. P. S. Negley, and one in German by Max Stern, who afterwards became a successful missionary in the West. A German song of welcome, composed by a student of the Seminary, was sung with great enthusiasm. It was really an excellent composition, but the new professor was not aware that many of those who sang most lustily did not understand the words which they were singing. It is not surprising that he expressed his surprise that so many of the students were familiar with the German language. Of course, the professor replied to the addresses in appropriate terms, and after several hours the exercises of this gala day were concluded with a serenade.

There is always "a fly in the apothecary's ointment," and a document in our possession renders it evident that there was one department that regarded itself as slighted, and felt no hesitation in expressing its emotions. This document is so fierce and caustic that it becomes amusing, and it therefore deserves to be preserved:

"PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT, August 10, 1844.

"At a meeting of the Preparatory students held this day the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS the Theologians and College students have held a meeting relative to the defraying of the expenses incurred in the reception of Dr. Schaff, without giving notice to the Preparatory students, and have passed a motion that they would illuminate the Preparatory in order to get the Preparatorians to bear part of all expenses. This we consider as an act of the meanest kind, and void of all generous feeling toward them; therefore,



*“Resolved, 1st, that we view with contempt and merited indignation the attempt of the College students to dictate to us and pass resolutions for us, as if we were not able to do so ourselves.*

*“Resolved, 2d, that the conduct of some Theologians and some College students has been highly insulting to us, in regarding us as mere tools whom they might use as they thought fit.*

*“Resolved, 3d, that we spurn with contempt the proposition to illuminate the Preparatory Department on condition that we assist in defraying all the expenses.*

*“Resolved, 4th, that we declare ourselves entirely free from all measures adopted at the College, and that we will not assist them in any manner whatsoever.*

*“Resolved, 5th, that we illuminate the Preparatory Department ourselves, and will defray the expenses thereof, without asking the assistance of the College students.*

*“Resolved, 6th, that the College students be requested to make laws for their own government, and not trouble themselves about us, for we are perfectly able to take care of ourselves.*

*“Resolved, 7th, that we pay \$2.50, as half of the sum to be incurred in bringing Dr. Schaff from Greencastle.*

*“Resolved, 8th, that copies of these resolutions be distributed in the College Building and also in the Preparatory Department.”*

Though Dr. Schaff was impressed with the fluency of the students in singing German, it was not long before he was undeceived with regard to their linguistic attainments; and he expressed himself in unusually strong terms concerning “the abominable necessity of acquiring the English language.” As far as the substance of the language was concerned he found no difficulty. He was soon able to write it idiomatically; but the pronunciation presented difficulties which he was never entirely able to overcome.

The literary labors of Drs. Nevin and Schaff gave the institutions at Mercersburg their chief celebrity. There was a long series of theological controversies which under other circumstances it would be interesting to describe. As the students were profoundly interested in these controversies, and made them the subject of their daily conversation, it may be desirable to say something about them, though we shall not attempt to furnish a description of each particular storm.

The first important controversy occurred before Dr. Schaff's arrival. It was induced by the fact that the Reformed Church of Mercersburg was, in 1843, about to call a pastor who was an extreme representative of what was called the new-measure system. Dr. Nevin protested against the extravagances of this system in a little book, entitled "The Anxious Bench." It created much excitement and received several replies; but it has been greatly misrepresented by later writers, who have evidently not taken the trouble to read it. The book was not an attack on revivals of religion, but was rather intended to show that genuine revivals must grow out of the real life of the church, and need not be promoted by artificial excitement. It has been said that this book changed the current of thought and life in the German churches of Pennsylvania.

The second conflict occurred immediately after the arrival of Dr. Schaff. The latter's inaugural address, delivered at Reading, October 25, 1844, was entitled "The Principle of Protestantism." It was intended to furnish a new argument in defence of Protestantism on the ground that it is the result of historical development, and does not necessarily antagonize the earlier forms of faith and worship.

This address was actually an extensive treatise, and but a small part of it was read at the inauguration. It was immediately printed in German; but, as its author once said to the present writer, "it might have been suffered to remain in the obscurity of a foreign language if Dr. Nevin had not translated and supplied it with a vigorous introduction." As for the address itself the author said: "I put into it everything that my professors had told me, and had no idea that my audience was not prepared to receive it."

Here, we think we have the chief occasion of subsequent troubles. Neither the audience, nor—we may add—the church in America was prepared to receive the doctrine which he taught. If the teaching of Dr. Rauch had awakened antagonism, it is not surprising that old orthodoxy became suspicious when another stream of German theology came flowing into Mercersburg.

It was perhaps unfortunate that the acknowledged leader of the Anti-Roman party in this country was a minister of the Reformed church. To Dr. Berg the doctrine of historical development was very offensive, and it was mainly through his influence that the Synod, in 1845, devoted four days to the investigation of the orthodoxy of the professors. The result was an almost unanimous expression of confidence by which the professors were greatly encouraged. "If the result had been otherwise," said Dr. Schaff, "I should have gone right back to Berlin."

The succeeding years were marked by intense theological and literary activity. The two theological professors, Drs. Nevin and Schaff, labored together in perfect harmony, and their influence was felt far beyond the limits of the Reformed Church. In 1846 Dr. Nevin published "The

Mystical Presence, a Vindication of the Reformed or Calvinistic Doctrine of the Holy Eucharist," a book which has been held to mark an epoch in the history of American theology. This was followed, in 1847 by "The History and Genius of the Heidelberg Catechism," and in the following year appeared the following tract, entitled, "Anti-christ, or the Spirit of Sect and Schism." In the meantime Dr. Schaff was laboring with all his might to influence the German churches through the medium of their own language. In 1848 he began the publication of *Der Kirchenfreund*, a monthly magazine devoted to the interests of the German churches of America. Among the contributors were learned men of different denominations. In 1851 he published in German his "History of the Apostolic Church," the first of the long series of historical works that flowed from his prolific pen. Finding it impossible to have good printing done in German in the neighborhood of his residence, it is related that he actually purchased a font of German type and brought a compositor from a distance, so that the work might be done under his personal supervision.

In 1848 the alumni of Marshall College began to issue the *Mercersburg Review*, a quarterly publication which under different titles has been continued to the present day.<sup>1</sup> For some years Dr. Nevin was its editor, and sometimes almost its only contributor; and on its pages great theological battles were fought.

The united labor of the professors resulted in a form of thinking and teaching which was widely known as "Mercersburg Theology," but it is known that Dr. Nevin

<sup>1</sup> *The Reformed Church Review*, edited by William Rupp, D.D., and G. W. Richards, D.D.



was the most important factor in its development. Though it may be beyond our province to treat of such themes, the following extract from an article in the "American Encyclopaedia" (1863)—with which we know Dr. Nevin was not displeased—may be interesting to some of our readers:

"The cardinal principle of the Mercersburg system, is the fact of the incarnation. This, viewed not as a doctrine or speculation, but as a real transaction of God in the world, is regarded as being necessarily itself the sphere of Christianity, the sum and substance of the whole Christian redemption. Christ saves the world, not ultimately by what He teaches but by what He is in the constitution of His person. His person, in its relation to the world, carries in it the power of victory over sin, death, and hell, the force of a real atonement or reconciliation between God and man, the triumph of a glorious resurrection from the dead, and all the consequences for faith which are attributed to this in the Apostles' Creed. In the most literal sense, accordingly, Christ is held to be 'the way, the truth, and the life,' 'the resurrection and the life,' the principle of 'life and immortality,' the 'light' of the world, its 'righteousness' and its 'peace.' The 'grace which bringeth salvation,' in this view, is of course always a real effluence from the new order of existence, which has thus been called into being by the exaltation of the Word made flesh at the right hand of God. It must be supernatural as well as natural, and the agency and organs by which it works, must, in the nature of the case, carry with them objectively something of the same character and force. In this way the church is an object of faith; the presence of the new creation in the old world of nature; the body of Christ through which as a medium and organ He reveals himself and works until the end of time. It mediates with supernatural office, instrumentally, between Christ and His people. Its ministers hold a divine power from him by apostolic succession. Its sacraments are not signs



merely but the seals of the grace they represent. Baptism is for the remission of sins. The eucharist includes the real presence of Christ's whole glorified life, in a mystery, by the power of the Holy Ghost. The idea of the Church, when it is thus held as an object of faith, involves necessarily the attributes which are always ascribed to it in the beginning, unity, sanctity, catholicity, and apostolicity. The spirit of sect, as it cleaves to Protestantism at the present time, is a very great evil, which is of itself sufficient to show that if Protestantism had any historical justification in the beginning, its mission thus far has been only half fulfilled, and that it can be rationally approved only as it can be taken to be an intermediate preparation for some higher and better form of Christianity hereafter. The distinguishing character of the Mercersburg theology, in one word, is its Christological interest, its way of looking at all things through the person of the crucified and risen Saviour. This, as the world now stands, embraces necessarily all that enters into the conception of the church question, which this system holds to be the great problem for the Christianity of the present time."

The long controversies concerning the "church question" may best be studied in the successive volumes of the *Mercersburg Review*. They attracted much attention, but their purpose was often misunderstood. When Dr. Nevin wrote his articles on "Early Christianity" it was not for the purpose of posing as the champion of Rome; but he rather desired to show that the position of the Puseyites—who desired to restore the constitution and ceremonial of the church as it existed about the fourth century—could not be maintained by Protestants, because many of the present peculiarities of the Roman church had even at that time become matters of general observance. With respect to the controversies themselves it may be said that they

were in the air. In Germany and England the same themes were violently discussed, and it is hardly surprising that the sound of such battles should have been heard in Mercersburg.

As has already been intimated the students were intensely interested in these discussions. Sermons were interesting in the degree in which they were profoundly theological. Once, it is said Dr. Nevin preached in the college chapel on a summer evening, immediately after supper, and it was expected that the service would be concluded long before it grew dark. On this occasion the text was: "When the Son of Man cometh shall he find faith on the earth?" John 18, 8. The discourse was intensely solemn; and it was much longer than usual, but no one seemed to notice the fact. At last—before the discourse was ended—it grew dark, and the janitor entered the hall, bearing lighted candles. At the sight the preacher started—as if awakened from a trance—and, breaking off suddenly, exclaimed: "Oh! Receive the benediction!"

It is curious to recall what peculiar persons came to Mercersburg in these early days. A few of them were for a short time teachers in the college or academy; but others hung around the institutions, either as nominal students or as humble dependents. There was Henry C. Bernstein who taught Hebrew and German in 1841-2. He was generally called "the Rabbi," because it was believed that he had once held that office. The boys suspected him of rationalism, but, in his own way, he was very cautious; and when they worried him for his opinion as to the genuineness of the claims of the witch of Endor they only succeeded in exciting him to such a degree that he roundly cursed the unfortunate woman.

A big German once applied for a position as instructor. "What can you teach?" he was asked. "O," was his reply in unusually vigorous German, "I can teach Latin and Greek, Hebrew and Chaldee, Ethiopic and Sanscrit, and *any amount of such accursed stuff.*" It is hardly necessary to add that he did not receive an appointment.

The Rev. Gardiner Jones was Tutor in Ancient Languages, 1841-43, and also Rector of the Preparatory Department. He was a convert from the Roman Catholic church and was constantly declaiming against its "corruptions." That he was a good scholar was not denied, but as Dr. Appel says,<sup>1</sup> "he was not well balanced." Sometimes he "put on airs" and would not speak to anybody; at other times he cast aside all restraint and acted like a little boy. He was not popular and found it necessary to retire. It is said that he returned to the Catholic church and spent his later years as a member of an ascetic order.

Another convert to Protestantism was Edward Leahey, the monk of La Trappe, France, who was, in 1844, a nominal student in the Seminary. Though these men were always ready to denounce "Romanizing tendencies" it is conceded that their presence in the institutions did more harm than good.

Students of Marshall College remember "Broatsie"—he was known by no other name—who regarded himself as a poor dependent of the institution. He was at best a learned tramp and was probably insane. Though generally taciturn he could speak Latin fluently; and when the students occasionally addressed him in well prepared Latin sentences he responded with such alacrity that they were glad to seek cover. For his dinners he depended on the

<sup>1</sup> "Recollections of College Life," p. 183.

people of Mercersburg; and in the morning and evening he regularly appeared at the door of the refectory and silently accepted whatever was given him. At night he made his way to one of the recitation-rooms and slept on a bench. The students at last, at a general meeting, formally declared "Broatsie" a nuisance, and requested the Faculty to have him removed from the building. How this was accomplished we have not been informed.

The social life of Marshall College was more intimate and pleasant than would be possible in a larger institution or in a larger town. Entertainments in the present sense were hardly thought of, but students of good character were welcome everywhere.

Dr. Schaff was married to Miss Mary Schley, of Frederick, Maryland, and thus another family was added to the hospitable college circle. The surviving students of "old Marshall" have no more pleasant recollections than those which concern the evenings quietly spent in the families of the professors.

On Saturday afternoon it was the proper thing to take a long walk. "Stony Batter"—the birthplace of President Buchanan—was frequently visited; and occasionally a journey might be made to "the Cove" or "the Corner." When there happened to be a sufficient intermission in the college exercises to render possible a trip by stage to Greencastle or Hagerstown, or possibly to Chambersburg, it was an occasion long to be remembered. Camp-meetings and circuses gave the professors much trouble and often led in different ways to disobedience and discipline.

The mountains near Mercersburg were covered with chestnut trees, and the crop was sometimes abundant. Every autumn the students claimed a holiday, and actually

gathered chestnuts in large quantities. "Chestnut Day" became a recognized "institution"; and it is a curious fact that it survived for several years after the removal to Lancaster, though in the neighborhood of the latter city chestnuts are scarce. The students, however, claimed their holiday on the ground of long-established precedent; and it required much persuasion to induce them to renounce it peaceably, even after it had become an evident absurdity.

On the mountain-side, several miles from Mercersburg, there was a village appropriately called "Africa," as it was entirely occupied by negroes. Here dwelt "Aunt Milly," a celebrated "sermon-taster," who was very proud of her accomplishments. Seated in front of her cabin she was fond of intercepting students, who passed through the village on their mountain walks, by inquiring: "What was your minister's text last Sunday?" If the student confessed that he had forgotten, he received such a lecture as made his ears tingle; but if he attempted to deceive her by quoting a text that happened to occur to him, his fate was apt to be even worse. "Yaas," she said, "dat was de text, but what were de p'int's? A sermon is no good widout de p'int's." Having gone so far the student probably attempted to outline a sermon, to which "Aunt Milly" listened attentively, but finally uttered the merciless judgment: "Dat may all be true, but eider you or dat minister can't preach."

In many respects the social life of Mercersburg was very pleasant, though professors and students often complained of the isolation of the place. The college was regarded as prosperous, and it had the support of the entire community.

When Dr. Nevin entered upon his presidency the College had trouble in consequence of financial embarrass-



ments, and to save themselves from loss the Trustees were actually compelled to purchase a hotel. Of course, they sold it as soon as possible, but in the meantime the affair gave rise to much amusement.

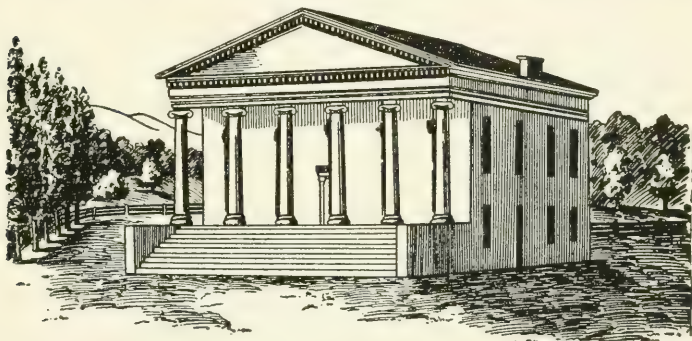
In 1841 the Reformed Church held a Centenary celebration in commemoration of its establishment in this country, though no particular event was selected as worthy of special honor. The benevolent contributions of the churches were of great advantage to the institutions, and in 1841 the synod declared that, as compared with the seminary, the college had received more than its proper share. Greatly encouraged, the Board once more resolved to erect a College Building, and the Rev. Samuel Miller was appointed agent to gather contributions for this special purpose. A building committee was appointed, and its members, somewhat prematurely, purchased a great quantity of brick, which was duly unloaded on the *campus*. It is said that there was brick enough for a building twice as large as the one which had been contemplated. To the best friends of the college it was evident that the erection of a building of such size must lead to financial disaster. A good man declared in his own simple way that "the weight of the brick rested heavily on his heart and kept him from sleeping at night." Dr. Nevin insisted that the finances of the institution would not at that time warrant the undertaking; and as soon as he "put down his foot" the case was practically settled. The minutes of the Board have nothing to say about this affair, except that a mild resolution was passed, directing a roof to be placed over the brick, so as to protect them from the weather. There they long remained, but—as will be seen in the following chapter—they incidentally led to the erection of several beautiful buildings.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### THE BUILDING OF THE HALLS.

PLAN AND PURPOSE — RIVALRY OF THE LITERARY SOCIETIES — EN-  
THUSIASM OF THE STUDENTS — CABINETS AND MUSEUMS —  
“ELECTIONEERING” — GERMAN LITERARY SOCIETIES —  
DESERTED HALLS.

The Literary Societies had by this time become important organizations. They were keen rivals and sometimes got into violent collision. Hitherto both had met in the “prayer-hall” on different evenings, but the room was not pleasant, and its location was fatal to the secrecy which



SOCIETY HALL.

was in those days regarded as a necessity. The Goethean Society once sent the Faculty a gift of twenty-five dollars, to be used in the purchase of better seats for the chapel. No doubt the Faculty appreciated the satire which the gift involved; for though they courteously accepted the contribution they immediately sent the society an equal sum, to be applied to the enlargement of its library.

In 1843 the Board of Trustees, at the suggestion of Dr. Nevin proposed that the societies should erect halls on the college *campus*, for their exclusive use, offering to each society a contribution of \$500, which was afterwards increased to \$1,000, provided that the whole amount should be paid in brick. The general idea was no doubt derived from Princeton College, whose literary societies had erected similar halls. The fact that materials for building were at hand may also have influenced the action of the Board.

The buildings as thus suggested were to be forty feet in front by fifty-five in depth, to be externally exactly alike, and so situated that the proposed College Building could be erected between them. It was estimated that the cost of each building would be \$2,500, but the actual sum, in each case, turned out to be about six thousand dollars.

That the students undertook to erect these buildings was greatly to their credit. They were few in number, and most of them were poor, but their enthusiasm was boundless. They not only submitted to many personal sacrifices, but—especially during vacation—almost literally scoured the country in search of contributions. It is said that their enthusiasm was contagious, so that in the neighborhood of Mercersburg there were many people, not connected with the college, who publicly ranged themselves on the side of one or the other society.

Before the building was actually begun it was deemed desirable that the societies should be legally incorporated, so that they might "sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded." Charters were accordingly granted by the Court of Franklin County, and the societies flattered themselves that they could conduct their affairs without the inter-

ference of the Board, so that they actually ventured to make changes in the external appearance of the halls. The Goetheans put a window where a door ought to have been, and the Diagnothians, whose building was not quite so far advanced as that of their rivals, immediately retorted by extending their hall five feet to the rear. As a natural consequence the Board was compelled to interfere, and the societies were ordered to adhere rigidly to the original plan. The Board, however, eased the situation by agreeing that the expense of the alterations which had now become necessary should be paid by the treasurer of the College.

The Corner-stone of the Goethean Hall was laid on Goethe's Birthday, August 28, 1844. Dr. Schaff read a poem and David Paul Brown, Esq., of Philadelphia, delivered the address. The Diagnothians deferred the laying of their corner-stone until the 4th of July, 1845, on the evening of which day they, as usual, celebrated their Anniversary. The orator of the occasion was Dr. Lewis W. Green, professor in the Western Theological Seminary at Allegheny, Pa.

In such an enterprise financial trouble was to be expected, and the experiences of the two societies were similar. At the end the Board of Trustees granted to each society several scholarships, but it is doubtful whether all of them were sold. It is certain that by far the greater part of the cost of the buildings was defrayed by the liberality or the personal exertions of the members of the societies. It took a long time to settle all the accounts, and at least in the case of one of the societies, it was not until 1848 that the building committee was finally discharged. A small sum was loaned by the College to each society for the payment of a remaining debt.

The Halls when completed were certainly handsome; and it is not too much to say that similar buildings could not now be erected for twice their cost. They were designed by Professor Samuel W. Budd and became a monument to his taste and skill. A Catalogue issued by the Goethean Society in 1844 contains a picture which will do equally well for either Hall. It represents a building of classic style, with a portico supported by five Ionic columns. The interior arrangement was similar to that of the Halls at present in Lancaster. The first story was divided into two rooms for the use of the library and museum, and the second was occupied by a large room for the meetings of the society. Over the chair of the President of the Goethean Society there was a picture representing a ray of light falling upon a globe that was almost covered with darkness. It was, of course, symbolical of the motto of the society: *Γενέσθω φῶς*—"Let there be light!" The Diagnostics followed suit with a representation of their seal which bore as its device a goddess crowning a young man with laurel—equally suggestive of their motto: *Στέφει τιμῶντας ἀντὶν ἀρετῇ*—"Virtue crowns her followers."

That the societies were proud of their halls goes without saying. They were regarded as sanctuaries in a sense which we can hardly appreciate, and the admittance of a stranger to their sacred precincts was a favor which could not be too highly esteemed. Members were actually required to remove their shoes before entering the place of meeting, and to put on a pair of slippers. The assumption of secrecy was, in the case of both societies, possibly carried to extremes. Nothing that happened at a meeting could be revealed under the severest penalties; and the names of the speakers at anniversaries and exhibitions were gen-



erally kept secret from the rival society until the evening of the performance.

In their libraries and cabinets the societies took great pride. The former were begun immediately after the organization of the societies, and in 1844 each library numbered about 2,000 volumes. The cabinets, or museums, were begun later, and naturally consisted chiefly of objects which the students had gathered, and which they regarded as curiosities. There were, however, some rare specimens—among others the gar-fishes, presented by Mr. Wells, which were subsequently borrowed by a great scientist, but never returned. The Diagnothian cabinet was smaller than the other; but in 1848 this society purchased in Germany a geological collection which enabled them to make up for previous deficiencies.

At the opening of the fall term each society made strenuous efforts to secure the larger number of new students. They were received with all possible kindness, and might easily have been persuaded that they were persons of great distinction. An upper-classman might have been seen engaged in assisting a Freshman to carry his trunk; and to be permitted to assist him in arranging his room was a decided honor. In fact, however, the new student was carefully guarded by those who had first made his acquaintance, and to introduce him to a member of the rival society was a misdemeanor. Such extraordinary courtesy—which was known as “electioneering”—was continued until the stranger had joined a literary society, after which event he was expected to do his part in attracting others, and naturally took his proper place in the social life of the institution.

On retiring from the office of Speaker of the Diagnothian

Society, July 26, 1842, Mr. John Cessna—then a member of the Senior class—delivered a playful address in which he treated at some length of the subject of “Electioneering.” That it was delivered to but one of the societies is a matter of no account, as the methods of both societies were practically alike.

Mr. Cessna said:

“Electioneering is a subject which is more difficult to be described than the act is to be performed. It is a duty which we owe to Society—one, too, of no small importance. In the performance of this duty the first thing that is necessary is to know yourself—to be in the right spirit. If there is a single member here who is not satisfied with Society—who is not out and out a thorough-going, whole-souled Diagnothian—let that member never attempt to electioneer. For as you cannot convince unless you are convinced, so you will accomplish little in influencing new students if you are lukewarm or dissatisfied yourself.

“The next thing necessary is to know the individual whom you wish to influence. Never begin to argue with a new student on the merits of Society before you have conversed with him long enough to *read* him and to understand his character and disposition. If you wish to make a deep thrust into any material you will surely seek the softest spot. So it is in this case. If you find a student in whom you discover, after reading him, a soft spot, direct all your blows to that quarter and success is certain. If you meet with one who is really desirous of studying—who is studious and diligent—by being frank and open you may soon make yourself his friend and give him some advice as to the manner in which he may rid himself of bores and interlopers. Whenever you get so “thick” with him that he comes to you voluntarily and asks your advice, he is pretty safe. He then considers you his confidential friend and you can generally get him without saying a word about Society. If you

meet a lad that is very vain, praise him a little, if you don't have to stretch your conscience, and perhaps even that would be allowed in such a case, if not in any other. Tell him all about the Fourth of July, and give him an indirect hint that a man of his genius would stand a pretty fair chance to be elected to represent society on the Fourth. After you get such members as these, don't forget to harden their soft spots. Try to suit yourself to every grade of character and kind of disposition. Mould yourself to suit his circumstances and you will soon be fast to him, something like two boards—ploughed, grooved and well joined. Such conduct might not suit in the common transactions of life, but certainly all is fair in our politics that is not dishonorable. Never run down the Goetheans before a man of sense. If you yourself are a little softer than the new student whom you wish to influence, you had better stay at home. When you visit a room and find the occupant engaged, beg his pardon for intruding. Tell him you know he is very much troubled, and start off. If he insists very much on your staying, you can judge from his manner whether you are welcome or not. If you think you are welcome you may know that he considers you a friend. A little advice would then be well received as to the manner in which he might act in order to receive fewer visits. Tell him that you will speak to other Diagnothians and request them to call less frequently, taking all the responsibility on yourself. Tell him too that this will give the Goetheans a great advantage over you, but that he must not make up his mind until he has seen all the Diagnothians. If he promises this he may be considered pretty safe.

“There is yet another problem in relation to this subject which is difficult to be solved. It is, whether the members should go in companies or alone, when on the business of electioneering. This should be determined by the nature of the individual visited. If he is fond of company he should be visited by large companies. If he is fond of study one can do more with him than a large number. It

may be well to visit an individual once with as many members as can be got together, in order to create an impression; but such visits ought not to be repeated. If a new student be of a serious-sober turn send the most serious members to meet him; if he be somewhat wild, send the wild ones, if you have any of that description. If you have none let some of your members get wild for a few days, until they get him, and then return to their former habits.

"The final visit—or any visit which is made with the expectation of getting the letter—should be made with by one member alone. Let him be one of those with whom the new-comer is most intimate. Individuals would always rather divulge their secrets to one alone, upon whom they look as a private and confidential friend. The telling of the secret works pretty hard on an individual, as he does not like to come out and take his stand, for he knows that by so doing he will dissatisfy one half of the students and render himself somewhat unpopular with them. This is a matter which he will not disclose to every one, and an advantage is consequently gained by having him alone with some one who is able to work himself into his good graces.

"These, I believe, are about all the rules which can be laid down on this subject, as the business is one which must be attended to as circumstances require. That rules for all cases may be invented, and the D. L. S. come off victorious, is the ardent wish of him who wishes for, but can not participate in the conflicts of the coming campaign for new members."

Of course, in an institution in which the rivalry of the societies was developed to this degree, the "hazing" of Freshmen was never even suggested.

The anniversaries and exhibitions were occasions in which the societies took a profound interest. On the 28th of August the Goethean Society celebrated the birthday of Goethe with a procession and address; but their exhi-

bition—which attracted greater interest—was at first held at New Year and afterwards on the twenty-second of February. The Diagnothians selected the Fourth of July as their anniversary, and many of their orations were naturally of a patriotic character. The exhibitions were, of course, important occasions, and everything possible was done to render them attractive. To be successful as an orator was in those days the highest distinction to which a student could aspire.

It is not generally remembered that in those early days each of the literary societies had a German annex. At least as early as 1837 there was a German literary society, composed of members of both English literary societies. Its members met regularly for practice in German oratory and composition, and once, at least, they gave a public entertainment in the language of the fatherland. In 1841 they divided into two societies which respectively assumed the names of Schiller and Rauch. The Schiller society was composed of Goetheans and the Rauch of Diagnothians. Henry Harbaugh joined the Rauch society, but as he was not very familiar with pure German he horrified the society by insisting on speaking in Pennsylvania-German, which he afterwards used to such excellent effect in his well-known dialect poems. The absorbing interest of erecting the halls may have been the chief occasion for neglecting the German societies, for about 1848 they ceased to exist.

The Reformed congregation of Mercersburg had hitherto worshiped in the old Union church, which was in many respects uncomfortable. It was, therefore, an acceptable proposition when the Board of Trustees of Marshall College, in 1844, offered to contribute brick to the amount of

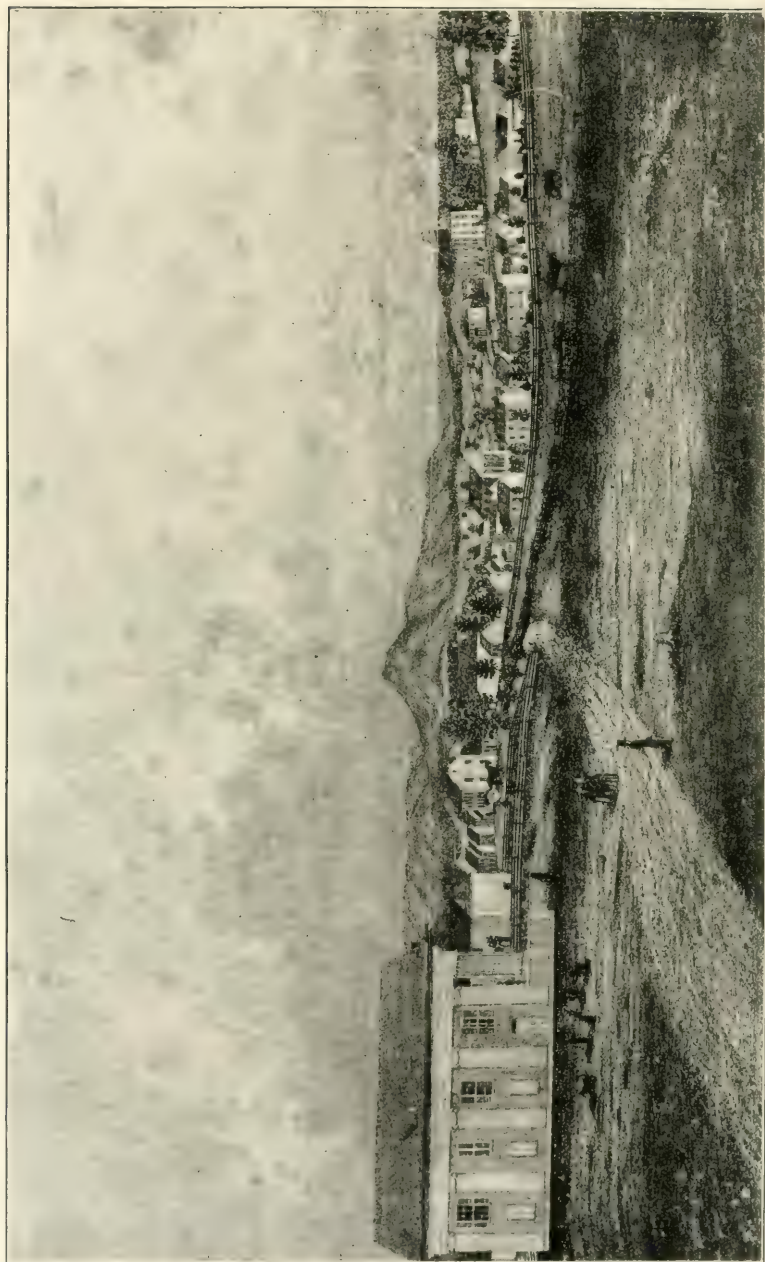


one thousand dollars for the erection of a new Reformed Church. The church was built and is still standing. In it the college had the guaranteed right of holding its commencements.

When the institution was finally removed from Mercersburg no grief was so great as that of the literary societies, which were compelled to give up their beautiful halls. No use could be assigned to them and their position on the deserted campus was peculiarly desolate. Professor Nevin wrote some touching verses concerning them, but we have room only for a single stanza:

“ Ah, now they’re standing all forlorn,  
Or turned to other use;  
While we their sad condition mourn,  
Their ruinous abuse—  
Their ruinous abuse, my boys;  
Yet still they wake to view  
The times lamented that were ours,  
When these two Halls were new;  
When these two Halls were new, my boys,  
When these two Halls were new! ”





MERCERSBURG IN 1846.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### TOWN AND GOWN.

#### EARLY CONFLICTS — THE ABOLITION RIOT — “THE BIG FIGHT” — MILD DISCIPLINE.

Though the relations of the town and college were generally friendly, there were occasional collisions which sometimes degenerated into actual “fights.” In these conflicts the substantial citizens took no part, except to aid the Faculty in preserving order; but there were some “fellows of the baser sort” who delighted in testing their strength with the students of the college. As is well known there was hardly a literary institution in the country which was entirely exempt from similar troubles.

To relate all the traditions, concerning such conflicts, which have come down to us, would be to extend this chapter beyond its intended length; but we have pretty full accounts of two collisions which may be regarded as typical.

The earliest of these conflicts was known as the Abolition Riot. It occurred in July, 1837, and created great excitement. It was, of course, one of many that occurred all over the country; but in some respects it was not uninteresting.

Mercersburg, it will be remembered, was very near the line of Maryland and almost under the shadow of the South Mountains. Fugitive slaves from the South had but to follow the line of the mountains to find their way to liberty. Many of them remained in Mercersburg, and the negro population of the village and its vicinity became con-

siderable. As a rule the negroes<sup>1</sup> were respectful and gave no trouble, but there was a general sentiment that the subject of slavery must not be publicly mentioned. The negroes might remain unmolested as long as they behaved themselves properly, but to reflect on "the peculiar institution" of the South was not only unwarranted interference, but might prove dangerous to the whole community. "Abolitionists" were by the majority regarded as political incendiaries, who must at all hazards be prevented from spreading their pernicious doctrines.

One day the Rev. G. Blanchard came to Mercersburg. He was a Congregationalist minister, and was subsequently president of Knox College, Illinois.<sup>2</sup> As a gentleman of culture he was courteously received by the Faculty and students. At the hotel where he was staying he, however, rather incautiously informed the landlord that he proposed to deliver a lecture on "Slavery," and was immediately ordered to leave the house. He secured lodging at the residence of Daniel Kroh—a married student who kept a boarding-house.

Mr. Kroh had previously been regarded with some suspicion. At a debate in the Diognothian Society he had

<sup>1</sup> Several negroes were in an especial sense the humble friends of the students. Arnold Brooks, the coachman of the "Mansion House" was admired for his strength and bravery. He regarded himself as the special champion of Dr. Nevin, and threatened a terrible fate to his enemies, of whom he had heard though he had never seen them. Davie Johnson, who was long the janitor of the college, was regarded as a model of unaffected piety. The writer well remembers how earnestly he pleaded for the gift of a skull which an early student had somehow obtained and had left in his room. "Give it to me!" he said, with tears in his eyes, "I knew the man it belonged to, and I want to bury it." The skull was given him, and he actually buried it in the graveyard, after which he offered a solemn prayer.

<sup>2</sup>Dr. Appel's "Recollections of College Life," p. 108.



spoken against slavery, and was consequently called an abolitionist, though his views were by no means radical. That he had received a notorious abolitionist into his house was a sin which a certain part of the community could not easily forgive. It was proposed to attack his house, but a prominent citizen of the town had secretly given him a gun, and with it he walked up and down the street, to show that he was prepared to defend himself.

On Sunday evening Mr. Blanchard started out to attend worship in the Methodist church. Mr. Kroh desired to accompany him, but at Mr. Blanchard's request he followed at some distance, hoping thus to attract less attention. Before Mr. Blanchard could enter the church he was assailed with a shower of eggs and stones, so that he was compelled to seek refuge in a boarding-house kept by Mr. Wolfensberger. Here the students rallied to his defence, and one of them, Jacob Ziegler, is said to have successfully defied the crowd. Mr. Blanchard was escorted to the house of Mr. Kroh, and—after he had been made presentable—there delivered a lecture on his favorite subject. Next morning he was sent to Greencastle in a private carriage, accompanied by an athletic student—John Hiester—who would have made a good showing, if they had been attacked on the way.

The "abolition riot" gave the Faculty a good deal of trouble. It was brought up in various forms, and there was one citizen of Mercersburg who seemed never to grow weary of presenting charges against Mr. Kroh. The chief preliminary question was to determine whether Mr. Blanchard's discourse had been a lecture to which students had been invited, or a mere social conversation. As it was proved that it was opened and closed with prayer it was

finally declared to have been a political lecture—which students were forbidden to attend—and Mr. Kroh received a reprimand.

The “big fight”—as it was generally called—occurred ten years later. Trouble had for some time been brewing between the students and some of the mechanics of the town, and the conflict was not unexpected.

On Saturday evening, September 4, 1847, Alfred Dubbs was walking alone along the main street when he was met by several “town fellows,” one of whom came up to him and deliberately blew tobacco smoke into his face. The student immediately knocked him down, and defended himself as well as possible from a general attack. Several students were near at hand and came to the rescue. The news was carried to the college and in a few minutes the students came down the hill “like a swarm of bees.” The “mechanics” also received reinforcements and the parties were soon engaged in a pitched battle. Tutors appeared upon the scene, and ordered individual students to return to their rooms. They obeyed at once, but most of them merely took time to change their hats and coats, and thus partially disguised they were soon again in the midst of the fray. Some of the boys were perhaps not thoroughly in earnest. One of them—afterwards an eminent judge—ran into McKinstry’s store, and seizing a big butcher-knife that lay on the counter, carried it out to the corner of the house and began rubbing it up and down the bricks. “Just wait,” he said, “till I get my knife sharp.” He continued rubbing until the fight was done.

For some time the conflict was serious and each side had its victims, but we have not learned that any one was permanently injured.

The natural consequence of these events was a summons to appear before the Faculty. The minutes say that some of the "mechanics" were also invited to be present at the meeting; but it does not appear that the invitation was accepted. Mr. Dubbs was the first to be heard, and his prospects were certainly not promising. The President sternly addressed him in the words: "It must be perfectly evident that you have grievously broken the laws of the college"; but Professor Baird—who had been a lawyer—immediately added: "But he had provocation." Professor Baird thus became the voluntary counsel of the accused, and made an excellent speech. How the matter was settled appears in the following extract from the Minutes of the Faculty:

"After a careful examination of the circumstances it was resolved by the Faculty that Messrs. Gray and Dubbs, be both slightly censured for being on the street as spectators in study hours, especially as they had been remanded to their rooms by Mr. Reinecke earlier in the evening. In the case of Mr. Dubbs too the Faculty thought it wrong in him that earlier in the evening, he had taken the least notice whatever of an insult, the blowing of tobacco smoke on his face, as he passed him on the street, by a low fellow of the town; the notice taken in all such cases being more gratifying to such low fellows than an overlooking of them altogether."

This action appears to have been sufficiently gentle; but it may be added that in the case of several other students, who had been "more intimately connected with the fray, even unto fighting," the discipline was more severe.

Other stories, similar to those related in the present chapter, might easily be gathered. To tell them now may seem to be useless; but, after all, these conflicts constitute

a part of the history of the institution, and without them it would hardly be possible to form a correct idea of its peculiar life. Nearly every American institution has passed through similar experiences; but they may generally be congratulated on the fact that such evils no longer exist. In Lancaster, at any rate, there appears to be not a single trace of the ancient rivalry of Town and Gown.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### LITERARY AMENITIES.

#### PECULIAR LAWS — EARLY POETS — “YOUTH’S PHANTASIES” — “SLUBBERDEGULLIOUS.”

The earliest printed copy of the College Laws contains the following regulation:

“No student shall keep for his use or pleasure any horse, dog, gun, or fire-arms and ammunition of any description, or any dirk, sword, or any other deadly weapon.”

This rule led to much amusement, and may not have been very highly regarded; but in one instance, at least, it was somewhat ostentatiously observed.

A certain student owned a dog whom he named “Jake.” The dog was ordinarily well-behaved, but had the bad habit of following his master, and sometimes disturbed a class by appearing at recitation. The owner was accordingly reminded of the law, and promised that the offending animal should be removed. Returning to his room he summoned a company of his cronies, whom he called the “Amphictyonic Council,” and it was agreed that “Jake” must be legally tried and convicted. The dog was placed on a table and compelled to listen to the reading of the College Laws. When his misdemeanors had been made sufficiently evident the law was applied; and “Jake” was found guilty and sentenced to be shot.

The sentence was actually carried out and the dog was buried with a great deal of serio-comic ceremony. A program had been prepared, in which the owner appeared as



chief mourner. Verses, which are supposed to have been sung at the funeral, were written in English, and in a kind of mongrel German which was amusing on account of the pure atrocity of its composition. The first stanza of the so-called "German ode" read something like the following:

"Und bist du todt, Du armes Thier?  
In de kalt Grund you must verfrier;  
Und muss ich sagen, Du bist todt?  
Kannst nicht mehr essen Fleisch und Brod,  
Und bist du todt, Du armer Hund?  
And must we stick you in de Grund?"

Of the English verses two lines only are remembered:

"Jake never stole an ounce of meat,  
But took it by the pound."

All the rest is forgotten. Indeed, the account of the incident, as handed down by tradition, has become indistinct, and it is possible that we have not done full justice to all its particulars.

The students of Marshall College, as we have seen, were generally solemn and inclined to philosophy, but there were always a few who preferred poetry. Fortunately for these the poet's art was everywhere highly esteemed, and the successful composition of verses—whether in Latin or English—was the highest accomplishment which a student could possibly acquire. It was cultivated in the literary societies, and was justly regarded as an important part of the training of a scholar.<sup>1</sup>

In 1842, Henry C. Beeler, of Pittsburg, acquired considerable reputation in the college—and possibly else-

<sup>1</sup> In 1841 Professor N. C. Brooks, of Baltimore, delivered before the Diognothian Society, in lieu of an address, a long poem on "The History of the Church." It was a composition of a superior order, and was very highly esteemed.

where—for a number of successful poetical pieces. He died young, and we are not aware that any of his work has been preserved.

Henry Harbaugh wrote many verses while he was a student, and some of them were published in the *Messenger*; but his compositions were all religious, and it was not supposed that he would “achieve a volume.”

The publication of a volume of verses by a student, in 1847, created a decided sensation. The book was entitled “Youth’s Phantasies,” and its author was Charles H. Albert, who was at that time a member of the Junior class. Many of the separate pieces were no doubt composed while the author was a Sophomore. They are generally extremely sentimental, and their character may perhaps be best expressed in the opening lines of a lyric, entitled “The Wish”:

“I wish I were in love with some fair creature—  
That some fair creature were in love with me.”

There is a full assortment of stanzas with such titles as “Lines to——,” “Night Hours,” “Life’s Despondences” and “Love’s Woes,” and we are even granted the privilege of reading a fragment from an unpublished drama.

The latter part of the volume is occupied by a mock-heroic poem in four books, named “Cupid Abroad.” It is “respectfully inscribed to the Ladies of Mercersburg,” and some of them probably found it interesting. Many proper names are indicated by blanks which it is now impossible to supply. It may be briefly said that “the argument” is purely classical. Jupiter determines to establish a seminary of learning, and Apollo is directed to attend to the matter. Juno, however, is displeased at something

—as she usually is on such occasions—and determines to be avenged. She accordingly sends Venus and Cupid to destroy Apollo's work by smiting the students with the tender passion. A great number of charming maidens are brought to Mercersburg:

“ From Shimpstown, Loudon, Middleton,  
And Chambersburg the fair ones come ”;

and their influence is, of course, irresistible. At last Apollo and Venus meet and agree, in lines that are too numerous to quote, on the number of days in each week which the students are to be permitted to spend in the company of the ladies. Purgatorians (that is, Preparatorians) are not to visit them at all, spending all their time in the service of Apollo. Freshmen are granted a single evening, but the number increases with each year of the college course until the seniors are allowed to spend four evenings of every week in such pleasant society. In a burst of generosity Apollo finally exclaims:

“ The Theologians I deliver  
To Venus' tender hands forever;  
Nor ask one moment of their time  
To offer at high Learning's shrine.”

“ Cupid Abroad ” attracted considerable attention, and a student at Gettysburg wrote a reply, which he called “ Cupid Abroad Arrested.” It is a witty composition, and has been reprinted.

Sometimes the students of Marshall College indulged in literary amusements which have been termed “ feline amenities,” because they are apt to scratch. Almost every year, at Commencement a rhymed satire appeared, which was supposed to be devoted to the “ dissection ” of the

graduating class. It was called "Slubberdegullious," or more briefly, "Slub." The name was probably derived from "slubberdegullion"—an old English word which, according to Webster, signifies "a mean, dirty, sorry wretch." How it came to be applied in this case we do not know, but it was certainly not entirely inappropriate. Students rarely realize the evil which is done by such publications, and for the sake of a little amusement express themselves in terms which, though not intended to be serious, cannot fail to be painful and often leave a rankling wound.

Without attempting to excuse them, it may be confessed that the "Slubs" were not as scurrilous as their name would seem to indicate. They were, of course, anonymous, and it is hardly likely that at this late day any one will lay claim to their authorship. It may, therefore, be said that they do not evince any extraordinary literary ability. Of course, the wit has evaporated and the local allusions are rarely comprehensible. "The lights are fled—the garlands dead." Here and there, however, we may still discern the flash of wit or feel the genial glow of humor.

The earliest "Slub" that has come to our notice is dated, "Ten days before Miller's Millennium." This, of course, fixes the year as 1843, for it was then that "Father Miller" announced the consummation of all things. The document is entitled: "Programme of Perambulation," and is, in fact, in great part a mock programme. It begins with the following "explanatory stanza":

"Senior Class took a boat to go to Texas;  
Windus arose, stormus erat, thunderque revolvit,  
Boatum upset, omnes drownderunt,  
Qui Swim away non potuere."

Throughout the Order of Procession there is a good deal of this peculiar kind of Latin, some of which may as well remain untranslated. There are many local allusions and high honors are ascribed to the great poet "Horatius Smartus."<sup>1</sup> The Mormons must have been troublesome; for a prominent place in the procession is given to the Mayor and Council of Nauvoo and the editor of the Mormon "Times and Seasons." Why a similar position is given to James Gordon Bennett, LL.D., editor of the New York *Herald*, we are unable to determine. The Seminary is not suffered to escape without some sly thrusts; for the Roman Citizen—whoever he may have been—is in the line. Krummacher and the German Mission are also there; and there is an announcement of an elaborate dissertation on "Pussey-ism."<sup>2</sup>

The whole affair is supposed to conclude with a "Dirge," which is, in fact, a parody on "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled." There are suggestions of a cremation; for the concluding stanzas—which contain some bad advice—are as follows:

"Here we burn GREAT, GLORIOUS THEMES,  
Of which each line with wisdom teems,  
Filled up with bright and burning dreams  
Of immortality;  
All of which now ends in SMOKE,  
And gives our hopes a deathlike stroke,  
And it is in fact no joke,  
Though 'tis sport to ye.  
And as we now this victim burn  
May you to our example turn,  
And make this service your concern  
For evermore and aye.  
Ne'er let this custom be forgot,  
And as you go, why, pay your scot,  
And peace and plenty be your lot,  
Is what we ask and pray."

<sup>1</sup> Smart's Translation of Horace.

<sup>2</sup> The writings of Dr. Pusey were generally read.



The first "slubberdegullious" was, we think the least objectionable. The poetry certainly did not improve in subsequent years; and their individual peculiarities might be—as old Pompey (who announced auctions in Mercersburg) used to say—"too *re-tedious* to mention." Once in a while, even among the personalities, a couplet appears that strikes us as amusing. A student had been accused—quite innocently, as we happen to know—of having kept a popular novel, called "Stanley," out of the library for a longer time than the law permitted. This was enough for the poet, who exclaimed, with reminiscences of "Marmion":

"On, Stanley, on! and tear yourself loose  
From the thraldom of Richard—the Middletown goose."

In the "Order" for 1846 there is a reminder of the fact that the proposed College Building had not been erected. The procession is directed "to proceed to the new College Building, where one of the trio (*sic*) will mount the slab and discourse of 'The Sublimity of Vegetation.'" Further on we have an allusion to the doctrine of historical development in a song which is to be sung at "the Initiation of the next Tutor":

"*Development* is now the rage,  
*Obedience* comes next, sirs;  
The Senior Class, I'm glad to say,  
Has taken both as text, sirs.

CHORUS BY THE CLASS:

"Right, dear Doctor, right and true,  
Your praise our hearts doth swell up;  
If we have but enough to eat,  
We'll certainly develop."

There was little amusement in Mercersburg, in the modern sense of the word; but youth has everywhere pecu-

liar ways of finding pleasure. There are, of course, traditions of "tricks" and practical jokes; but so far as we have been able to learn they manifested no extraordinary originality. Music was cultivated with some success, and the serenades of the "club" were highly appreciated. Athletics, as a separate department of work, were hardly thought of; but the students took plenty of exercise. Marshall College—it has never been doubted—produced good scholars and stalwart men.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### APPROACHING CHANGES.

GLADUAL INCREASE—PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT—TUTORS—FINANCIAL  
TROUBLE—SCHOLARSHIPS—STATEMENT OF FUNDS AND PROP-  
ERTY—INVITATION FROM LANCASTER—THE REMOVAL.

The College gradually increased in numbers and influence. The literary labors of the professors attracted general attention, and students began to come from distant regions. Several whose home was in New England were subsequently ranked among the most decided advocates of the peculiar philosophy of the institution. Governor Van Romondt, of St. Martin's—a West India Island—sent three of his sons. The isolation of Mercersburg and difficulties of travel prevented large accessions from a distance; but it seemed as if the College might aspire to higher things.

Until 1847 the Preparatory Department was closely connected with the College and its Rectors had a seat in the Faculty. The prosperity of the school depended greatly on the popularity of the Rectors. During the presidency of Dr. Rauch, the Reverend William A. Good had acceptably held this position. Then followed in rapid succession Andrew S. Young, Jeremiah H. Good, A. J. M. Hudson,<sup>1</sup> Joseph S. Loose, David Snively, Clement Z. Weiser and Samuel G. Wagner—all of them, either then

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Hudson, who had previously been teaching at the Trappe, in Montgomery County, Pa., was successful in bringing a number of excellent students to the institution. Among these—to use their later titles—may be mentioned: Governor John F. Hartranft, the Rev. Dr. Jacob Fry, and Judge A. B. Longaker.

or subsequently, ministers of the Gospel. Among the assistants in the Academy were a number of recent graduates who subsequently became tutors in the College.

The Tutors were in those days very important persons. The fact that they were young brought them into close touch with the students, and in this way many permanent friendships were formed. The names of the tutors in the days of Dr. Rauch we have already mentioned. Following the line to its end we find such men as Christian R. Kessler, Theodore Appel, John Cessna, George D. Wolff, Max Stern, E. W. Reinecke, David A. Wilson, Franklin D. Stem, John S. Ermentrout, C. Beecher Wolff, George B. Russell and Clement Z. Weiser.

To the students, no doubt, the College appeared sufficiently prosperous; but the Faculty might have told a different story. A college is at best an expensive affair; and we often wonder that Marshall College could be maintained on the slender means which it actually possessed. After the State appropriations had ceased the necessities of the institutions became urgent; and at one time the arrears of salary due to professors amounted to several thousand dollars. The financial condition of the Seminary, it should be remembered, was no better than that of the College, and all the professors were made to suffer. If it had not been for the fact that the President possessed some private means, which he was willing to use in the service of the institution, it would probably have been necessary to close its doors.

In 1846 Dr. Nevin formally proposed to lay down his offices in both institutions, to serve as an agent to gather benevolent contributions in their behalf. In this way, he said, the amount of his salary as a professor in the Semi-

nary might be applied to other needs. The Synod, of course, declined to accede to this proposition; but renewed its efforts to stimulate the benevolence of the Church. Rev. Bernard C. Wolff, and other leading ministers, undertook to gather the gifts of the people and according to the standard of the times their labors were successful. The contributions, though numerous, were not large, and it could not well be otherwise. Money was scarce, and from most men even a small contribution involved an actual sacrifice. Some of the churches were partly alienated from the institutions, on account of prevailing theological discussions. A few friends in the Reformed Dutch church of New York kindly remembered Mercersburg;<sup>1</sup> but, of course, the sum of the gifts received was hardly more than enough to relieve immediate distress.

Scholarships were still occasionally purchased, but they were no longer very favorably regarded. On payment of five hundred dollars, it will be remembered, the purchaser, his heirs or assigns, received the perpetual privilege of having a student at college, free of charge for tuition. In many instances scholarships of early date had passed out of the hands of the original owners, and had literally become the subjects of barter and sale. Students secured their use at the lowest possible price, and often passed them from hand to hand. The college, of course, received little or nothing from tuition, though to keep proper records of the scholarships required considerable clerical labor. In this way what was at first a blessing at last became a burden.

In 1849 the Chairman of the Financial Committee pre-

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Cornelia Van Rensselaer, annually forwarded a contribution of fifty dollars.



sented to the Board the following statement of the funds and property of Marshall College:

Scholarship notes and parts of scholarships bearing interest, .....	\$9,508.97
Amount of invested funds, including Seminary debt, .....	9,289.98
Notes due College and bearing interest, .....	979.82
Cash in the hands of the treasurer, .....	300.00
Amount of scholarships, no bond but interest paid, .....	1,500.00
Amount of suits instituted and subscriptions secured, considered good, .....	2,089.98
Amount of tuition due by students, .....	509.30
Philosophical apparatus, .....	1,000.00
Due upon scholarships, .....	9,520.66
Estimated balance of subscriptions, uncollected, ..	7,000.00

*Estimated Real Property.*

Society Halls, .....	11,000.00
Preparatory Building, .....	6,000.00
Professor's House and Appendages, .....	5,000.00
Cost of Ground, .....	3,000.00
Libraries and Cabinets, .....	3,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$69,698.71

Though the above inventory was possibly as nearly correct as it was possible to make it, it must be remembered that the real estate had been secured for a literary institution that had been projected on a considerable scale, and that it was practically useless for any other purpose. There were also several thousand dollars of floating debt which ought to be subtracted from the above total.

It was evident that great changes were impending. The synod declared that the time had come to determine

whether the educational interests of the church could be successfully maintained. A proposition was made to transfer the publication interests to Mercersburg, in the hope that the institutions might thus be financially strengthened, but this plan proved impracticable. It is not true that the Faculty were tired of Mercersburg, and therefore sought a pretext for removal. On the contrary they had become warmly attached to the town and the community, and could not think of leaving them without real sorrow. Dr. Nevin is said to have declared that if but five thousand dollars could be provided in cash to meet the emergency he would oppose all propositions for removal. Indeed, we can hardly see how any person could live for any time in Mercersburg without growing fond of the place. Not only the magnificence of the surrounding scenery, but the intelligence and courtesy of the people, furnished attractions that constantly grew stronger. We, therefore, do not hesitate to say that it was stern necessity alone which prompted the removal of Marshall College.

For some time there had been private correspondence concerning the union of the institutions at Mercersburg and Lancaster. It has been said—we do not know on what authority—that the correspondence was simultaneously begun at both places, and that the first two letters crossed each other on the way. At the Reformed Synod of Norristown, in October, 1849, the Rev. John Casper Bucher made a stirring speech on the importance of protecting the interest of the Church in Franklin College; and the synod ordered those of its members who were also members of the Lancaster Board of Trustees to be regular in their attendance at all meetings; or, if this was impossible, to

vacate their seats, so as to make room for the appointment of others who would not fail to attend to their duty.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest official communication from the authorities of Franklin College was dated December 6, 1849, and was presented to a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Marshall College, held at Chambersburg on the 27th of the same month. It gave an account of recent proceedings of that Board, and formally presented terms of union.<sup>2</sup> In order to test the sense of the meeting the following resolution was offered:

*“Resolved, That Marshall College is not so bound by any engagements springing out of its location at Mercersburg, as to prevent the Trustees from freely considering the expediency of its removal.”*

After a long debate this resolution was adopted by a vote of sixteen to ten. There was, of course, a protest from the minority on the ground that the Board had “no moral nor legal right to remove Marshall College from its present location.” The Board, however, took no further action at this time, preferring to leave the matter to the final judgment of Synod.

The people of Mercersburg were naturally displeased, and held a kind of “indignation meeting” in the Methodist church, at which they protested against the “violation of plighted faith” involved in the proposed removal. They anticipated that if the college were removed to Lancaster it would become “completely sectarian in its char-

<sup>1</sup> At the same meeting the Synod directed that the annual bonus of \$300, paid by the firm of M. Kieffer and Co., for the privilege of issuing certain publications, should henceforth be paid into the treasury of Marshall College.

<sup>2</sup> See “The Union Movement,” Chapter XI. of this volume.

acter." They even agreed to avail themselves of the laws of the land, if necessary, to prevent the occurrence of this disaster.

We can well understand the feelings of the people of Mercersburg. Apart from the fact that the prosperity of their town was supposed to depend upon the institutions, these people had been warm friends in times of trouble and had contributed in various ways to their support. The advocates of the proposed removal were, however, convinced that the charge of "violation of plighted faith" could not be established.

A special meeting of the Reformed synod was held at Harrisburg, January 30, 1850. At this meeting the subject of the removal of the College was fully discussed and the following resolution unanimously adopted:

*"Resolved, that in the opinion of the synod there is no legal or moral difficulty in the way of the removal of Marshall College to some other place."*

The accusation of violation of plighted faith "was disposed of in subsequent action, by explaining that the Theological Seminary had been located in Mercersburg, in 1835, in consideration of "stipulations and agreements that had not been fully complied with."<sup>1</sup>

At the same meeting the Synod formally approved of the proposed union of colleges, and requested the Board of Trustees of Marshall College "to take through its committee, the necessary steps to complete the plan of union,

<sup>1</sup>In 1838 the agent of the institutions reported that of the \$10,000 originally subscribed in Mercersburg it had been possible to collect no more than \$3,934.37. Though bonds had been given, it was found that to enforce them would cause great distress, and at last the securities were exonerated.

and to make the division of the funds of Franklin College, as proposed by the Lutheran and other Trustees of said college." In the history of Franklin College we have related the succession of events with some particularity. The act for the consolidation of the two institutions, as we have seen, was passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania on the 19th of April, 1850; but some time elapsed before its provisions could be carried into effect. Obstacles appeared at every step, and it required time and patience to overcome them. The original act had required that the Literary Societies should transfer their real estate to Franklin and Marshall College; but it was found that they had no authority capable in law of making the conveyance, and a supplemental act of the Legislature therefore became necessary. The property as a whole was offered to the citizens of Mercersburg at a stipulated price, but they declined to accept it, and for some years it remained unsaleable.

These are a few of the knots which had to be untied before the separation from Mercersburg could be effected. It was, however, even more difficult to meet the financial requirements of the Act of Union. It will be remembered that before the union could be consummated more than \$42,000 had to be collected and paid in cash into the treasury of Franklin College. The sum of \$17,169.61, which was paid for the Lutheran interest, was secured with comparative ease, for, according to the report made to Synod in 1852, "Every Classis cordially responded to the call." The sum of \$25,000 raised in Lancaster City and County to pay for the grounds and buildings of the new college, required great labor and perseverance. That it was finally secured was due in great measure to the



unremitting toil of the Reverend J. Casper Bucher. He was undoubtedly "the prince of collectors," and the collection of this fund was certainly not the least of his achievements. In the meantime the College in Mercersburg was visibly declining. It might have been better if the institution could have been removed sooner, but three years of restlessness were not without unfavorable effects. The students could not understand the causes of the prolonged delay and became dissatisfied. After Dr. Nevin had resigned his professorship in the Theological Seminary, and it became known that he did not propose to accompany the College to Lancaster the state of affairs became even more unsatisfactory. That grade in scholarship rapidly declined is not surprising. One of the students declared that he felt like Abraham when he was called to go into a strange country, not knowing whither he went.

When it was announced that the College was to be removed during the spring recess of 1853, and that the summer term would open in Lancaster, the news brought actual relief to professors and students. The general superintendence of the removal was committed to Mr. Jacob G. Peters, then a member of the Senior class, and the work was satisfactorily accomplished. The last official meeting of the Faculty was held in Mercersburg on the 21st of March, 1853.

That the Theological Seminary and the Preparatory Department were to remain some time longer in Mercersburg was a ground for general regret, though it was felt to be unavoidable. Apart from the fact that there were no adequate accommodations in Lancaster, the authorities were no doubt convinced that the removal of one of the

institutions was all that could at that time be safely undertaken.

Here the separate history of Marshall College properly ends; but a few words concerning the subsequent educational history of Mercersburg may not be unacceptable. Dr. Nevin had retired from the Theological Seminary in 1851, but Dr. Schaff continued to occupy his professorship until 1865. Dr. Bernard C. Wolff was elected Dr. Nevin's successor in 1852, but did not enter upon his duties until 1854. In consequence of Dr. Schaff's prolonged absence in Europe the Theological Seminary was closed for one year. When Dr. Wolff retired in 1864 he was succeeded by Dr. Henry Harbaugh, who occupied the position until his death which occurred in 1867. On the resignation of Dr. Schaff, Dr. E. E. Higbee was chosen to take his place, and was Professor of Church History and Exegesis until 1871. In 1868 Dr. E. V. Gerhart was called to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Dr. Harbaugh. He was the only member of the Faculty who accompanied the institution on its removal to Lancaster, in 1871.

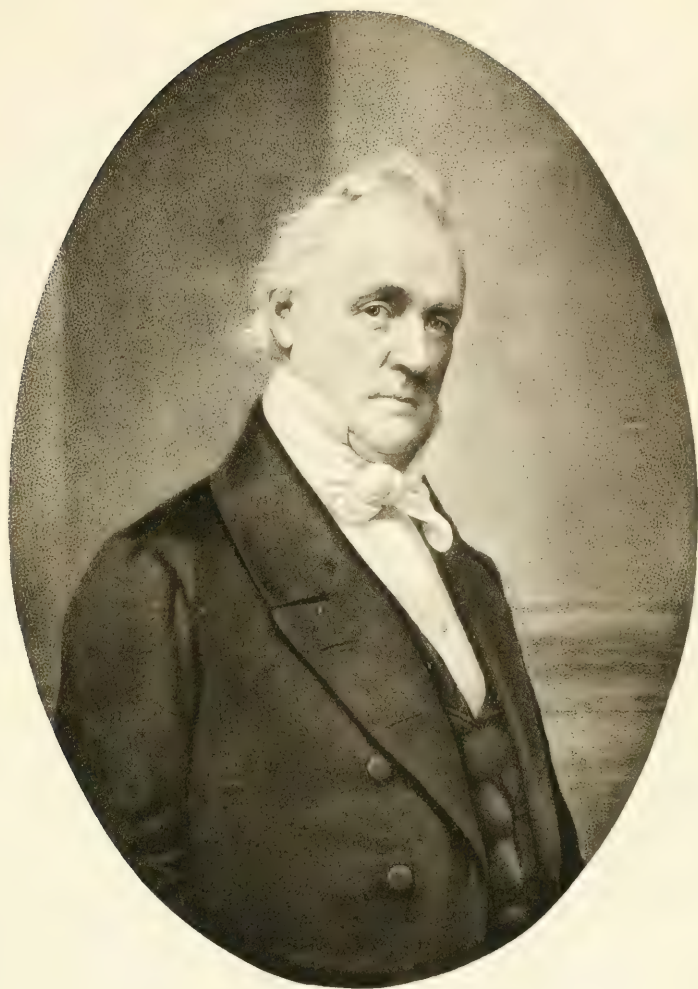
In 1857 a Theological Tutorship was established, partly on the basis of a fund invested in Germany, the gift of Baron von Bethmann-Holweg, the Prussian minister of cultus. The successive incumbents, while the Seminary was in Mercersburg, were William M. Reily and Jacob B. Kerschner. This tutorship has since been raised to a full professorship.

For two years after the removal of the College a Preparatory Department was maintained in Mercersburg, under the care of Rev. Samuel G. Wagner and Rev. Clement Z. Weiser. The school then passed into private hands and was successively conducted by the Rev. John

R. Kooker, and the Rev. Charles G. Fisher. In 1865 the Synod granted authority to its Trustees to lease its property in Mercersburg to the Classis of Mercersburg for educational purposes. Mercersburg College was organized at this time and was for some years a vigorous institution. Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Apple, was President until 1871, when he accepted a call to a professorship in the Theological Seminary which had just been removed to Lancaster. Rev. Dr. E. E. Higbee remained in Mercersburg and was for several years President of Mercersburg College. The college was well attended and was recognized as an excellent institution, but financial difficulties proved insurmountable, and it was finally closed. It was subsequently conducted as an Academy or Collegiate Institute by the Rev. Dr. George W. Aughinbaugh. In 1893 the Rev. Dr. William Mann Irvine, previously a professor in Franklin and Marshall College, took charge of this interest, and under his presidency and with the fostering care of the Synod of the Potomac, Mercersburg Academy has grown to be an institution of great importance. The old Seminary Building has been greatly enlarged and beautified; and the school is in all respects thoroughly equipped for successful educational work.

Marshall College had a separate existence of only seventeen years; but its brief career was certainly not inglorious. Though financially weak it was intellectually strong; and the achievements of its leaders show what may be accomplished by men of exceptional ability under the most adverse conditions. Marshall College is the main source of the life of the present institution; and its history presents ideals which in their simple dignity are worthy of our constant imitation.





*James Buchanan*





FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL  
COLLEGE.



## CHAPTER XX.

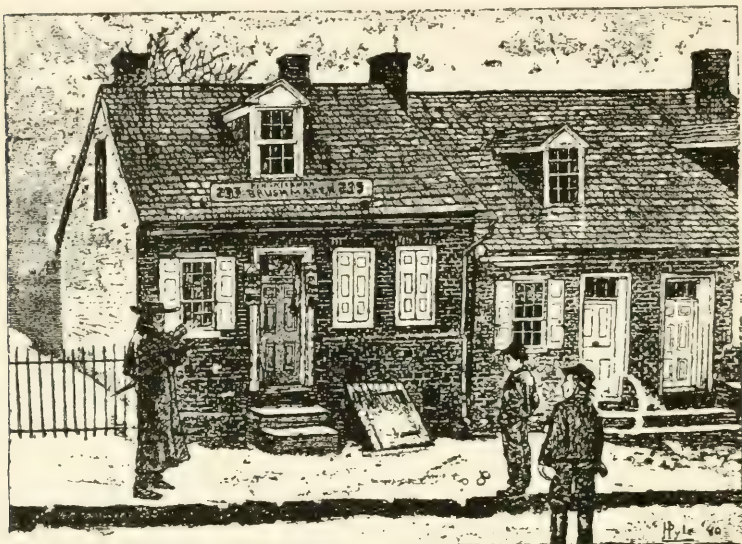
### NEW FOUNDATIONS.

LANCASTER FIFTY YEARS AGO—JAMES BUCHANAN—PROMINENT  
CITIZENS—COLLEGE FACULTY—FORMAL OPENING OF THE  
COLLEGE—FIRST ALUMNI DINNER—COLLEGE LIFE  
—PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN—EARLY  
DIFFICULTIES.

Fifty years ago Lancaster was a compact little city with not more than fifteen thousand inhabitants. It had been laid out by Governor James Hamilton as early as 1730, and was an important place during the colonial period. Many important Indian treaties were made here, and it became the center of the lucrative Indian trade. It was the shire-town of Lancaster County, which was regarded as the most fertile region in America; and Philadelphia itself was greatly dependent on supplies conveyed by Conestoga teams. In September, 1778, the Continental Congress held a meeting here; but it hurried away to York which was supposed to be less exposed to the danger of a British raid. From 1799 to 1812 the borough of Lancaster was the capital of the State; and in 1818 it was incorporated as a city. Though the statement may now seem hardly credible, it is a fact that for many years it was the largest inland city in the United States.

In 1853 the center of the city was fairly well built of brick, and there were some fine old residences, of which several are still standing. In the back streets were long rows of one-story houses which were not imposing in appearance, but occupied much ground and were very comfortable. Many old customs still prevailed, and at night

the watchman called the hour on his round. Gas had recently been introduced, but was not generally used in private houses. Fire companies were important organizations, and several of them had erected handsome houses. Their members were, of course, greatly attached to "the machine," which they were only too ready to defend against every threatening danger. There were a few manufac-



OLD HOUSES IN LANCASTER.

tories, of which the cotton mills were the most important. At the time of which we speak the new Court House and the First Reformed Church were in course of erection. These fine buildings were greatly admired, and seemed to indicate the beginning of a period of great prosperity.

James Buchanan—subsequently President of the United States—was regarded as the foremost citizen of Lancaster. He lived at "Wheatland," a mile from the city—but there were few persons who failed to recognize



him when he appeared upon the streets. In 1853 he was sixty-two years old, but actually looked older. His portly form, his head inclined to one side and the peculiar top-knot of white hair—these were characteristics that could not well be mistaken. Courtesy had become his second nature, and it was remarked that he spoke to boys on the street “as if they had been princes of the blood.” Though often absent from Lancaster he was naturally given the foremost place in every public enterprise.

Thaddeus Stevens was a distinguished lawyer; but, of course, no one dreamed that he would ever become the “Great Commoner.” Other eminent members of the bar were Emanuel C. Reigart, B. Champneys, Thomas E. Franklin, John R. Montgomery, Reah Frazer, A. L. Hayes, Nathaniel Ellmaker, Oliver J. Dickey and D. W. Patterson. Thomas H. Burrows was also an eminent lawyer, but is best known as the father of the Free School System of Pennsylvania.

The pastors of the city churches were almost without exception men of unusual ability and force of character. The Rev. Dr. Samuel Bowman—afterwards Bishop of Pennsylvania—was rector of St. James. Dr. Henry Harbaugh and N. A. Keyes were pastors of the Reformed churches. Dr. J. C. Baker resigned the pastorate of Trinity Lutheran church in the spring of 1853, and was succeeded by the Rev. G. F. Krotel. Rev. John Baldwin was pastor of the Presbyterian church and Bishop Henry A. Schultz held the same position in the Moravian. The Rev. Pennell Coombe preached in the Duke Street Methodist church, and a little later Dr. D. W. Bartine attracted general attention by his extraordinary eloquence. Father Bernard Keenan was rector of St. Mary’s, and commanded

the respect of the whole community. There were younger pastors of great ability; but those we have mentioned enjoyed more than local reputation, and their names are still honorably remembered.

The physicians of Lancaster were distinguished in their profession. In this connection we need but mention the names of Drs. John L. Atlee, F. A. Muhlenberg and Henry Carpenter.

To enumerate the eminent citizens of Lancaster is beyond our purpose. All of them, we believe, were friends of the new college. The Board of Trustees of Franklin and Marshall College—which included a number of the most prominent citizens of Lancaster—held its first meeting on the 25th of January, 1853. The officers elected at this meeting were: President, James Buchanan, LL.D.; Vice Presidents, Rev. Drs. John F. Mesick and Samuel Bowman; and Recording Secretary, Rev. N. A. Keyes. Mr. Jacob M. Long was the first permanent Treasurer.

The Faculty of Marshall College—consisting of Dr. J. W. Nevin and Professors Wm. M. Nevin, Thomas C. Porter, and Theodore Appel—were elected to the same professorships in Franklin and Marshall. Adolph L. Koeppen was chosen Professor of History and German Literature, and Dr. John L. Atlee became Professor of Anatomy and Physiology. James Merrill Linn was appointed Tutor in Ancient Languages. It was resolved that the institution should be opened in old Franklin College; but committees were immediately appointed to suggest a site and to make arrangements for the erection of a new building.

The College began its work at the appointed time under circumstances which were by no means encouraging.

There was no President, for Dr. Nevin had declined to accept the call. Only fifty-three students appeared, and most of these had previously been connected with Marshall. Some trifling alterations had been made for the purpose of accommodating the libraries, but the old college was very uncomfortable. Indeed, it must be confessed that there was considerable disappointment. Lancaster was dissatisfied because the college had not brought more money; and the college was disappointed because Lancaster had not contributed a larger number of students.

The Formal Opening of Franklin and Marshall College was held in Fulton Hall on the 7th of June, 1853. Addresses were delivered by the Hon. A. L. Hayes, the Rev. Dr. J. W. Nevin, and the Right Reverend Alonzo Potter. For vigor and spirit these addresses were of a superior order. In his discourse Dr. Nevin compared Pennsylvania to a Sleeping Giant who needs to be roused from his ignoble slumbers. With intense earnestness he urged his hearers to elevate the college to a position worthy of its grand ideal. "Lancaster should see to it," he said, "that Franklin and Marshall College be not permitted to perpetrate the *bathos*, of surmounting for all time to come the most magnificent site in her neighborhood with a mere twenty-five-thousand dollar scheme of public improvement."

On Tuesday, July 24, 1855, the College held its first Alumni Dinner. Dr. F. J. F. Schantz who, as a member of the graduating class, was privileged to attend, has contributed to the "Oriflamme" for the present year (1903) an extract from his diary including the following account of this interesting occasion:

“At 8.45 P. M. about one hundred persons attended the Alumni Banquet at Michael’s Hotel on North Queen street. President Gerhart sat at the head of the table; to his right the Rev. John W. Nevin, D.D., LL.D.; to his left the Rev. Philip Schaff, D.D. After prayer had been offered the bounties of the table were enjoyed. To the first toast—‘The Memory of Dr. Rauch, the first President of Marshall College’—the Rev. Dr. Bomberger replied. To the second toast, ‘The Reverend Dr. Nevin,’ the venerable Doctor responded. Other toasts were offered to which the following responded: Rev. Drs. Wolff and Fisher, President Dr. Gerhart, John Cessna, Esq., John W. Killinger, Dr. Steiner (M.D.), Rev. Mr. Gans, Rev. Mr. Kremer, Professor Dr. Atlee, Mr. Fenn, Mr. William Miller, Rev. Mr. Bucher and others. The writer made an entry in his journal with reference to the harmony that characterized this delightful banquet.”

In the meantime the College pursued the even tenor of its way, pretty much as it had done in Mercersburg. Commencements and Society Exhibitions were held at the appointed times and were highly appreciated. Young ladies were interested in the literary societies, and aided them in decorating the stage for their anniversaries. Tickets of admission were distributed among the friends of the students and the hall was always crowded.

The Societies held their regular meeting on Saturday morning, the Goetheans meeting in the College and the Diagnothians in the Odd Fellows’ Hall, on South Queen street. It was but rarely that a member failed to deliver an oration or to read an essay at the appointed time, and the weekly debates were well studied and interesting. At the opening of the term the societies were recruited after

the ancient fashion and new students were treated to unlimited ice-cream.

Students boarded wherever they pleased, though the Faculty, of course, exercised general supervision.<sup>1</sup> As they were few in number they attracted little attention, and some of them conceived the idea of wearing caps bearing the letters, "F. M. C." The characters were rather brilliant and could not fail to be noticed. The *hoodlums* of the town, however, insisted on translating them to mean, "Fools Must Come," and the students were unmercifully twitted. It is needless to say that the letters were soon removed.

On five mornings of each week the students met for prayers in Franklin College, on North Lime street. The room which served as a chapel was on the first floor, on the south side of the building, and was also occupied as a recitation room by Professor W. M. Nevin. In the center of the room stood a great barrel-stove which, in winter, was generally kept at a red heat. There was a desk, and around three sides of the room extended benches on which the students sat, with their backs to the wall. This was all the furniture, except a row of shelves bearing a remnant of the library of Franklin College. At prayers the roll was called, and on a certain day in each week students were expected to state whether they had been at church on the previous Sunday. It was usual, after prayers to hear an

<sup>1</sup> A number of students rented a house and boarded themselves. This organization was called, The Club. Harry Stiff—the town idiot—knew every student by sight but remembered no names. He had heard of the Club, and must have supposed that the term was to be applied to all the students. He seemed omnipresent, and whenever he saw a student he was sure to shout: "How are you Club!"



oration by a Senior, or a declamation from one of the lower classmen who were expected to declaim in regular order.

After prayers professors and students repaired to the several recitation rooms, where they were occupied until noon. In the afternoon there were no recitations. Dr. Theodore Appel taught mathematics in the room in the second story, at the southern end of the building. In the northern room on the first floor—of which a part was separated by a rude partition and by courtesy called the laboratory—Dr. Thomas C. Porter taught the natural sciences; and above his head, on the second story, Professor Koeppen discoursed in his peculiar way on history and German literature. Dr. Porter's lectures on geology were highly appreciated. Occasionally Dr. Atlee lectured on anatomy and physiology; but his professorship was hardly more than honorary, and his extensive medical practice occupied nearly all his time. It was a privilege to hear his lectures, and his eminence in his profession was fully recognized.

Tutor J. M. Linn was very popular. He was a brother-in-law of Dr. Harbaugh, and had but recently graduated at Lewisburg. In later life he became a lawyer.<sup>1</sup>

To complete the *personnel* of the College it is necessary to mention the name of William Marshall. For fourteen years he was the Janitor of Franklin and Marshall College, and no one in this position was ever more highly esteemed. To students he was always kind, and they were well aware that they had no better friend in Lancaster.

The teaching of the College was practically the same as

<sup>1</sup> James Merrill Linn was a brother of John Blair Linn, a graduate of Marshall College of the Class of 1848. The latter was Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under Governor Hartranft, and was also an industrious historical author.

in Mercersburg, except that Professor Koeppen enlivened his department in his peculiar fashion. Dr. Nevin's manuscripts were carefully transcribed by the students, and closely followed in the study of mental and moral philosophy. As in all institutions of that day the study of Greek and Latin was deemed worthy of double honor; and to be regarded as a good classical scholar was the highest object of ambition.

It is often said that at first the students and the boys of the town did not agree, so that there were frequent repetitions of the troubles of Town and Gown. The tradition, we believe, rests upon a very slender foundation. Individual students may have got into trouble, especially when curiosity led them into company which it would have been better to avoid; but there was no conflict of any importance. In fact, the students were so few in number that they could not afford to cultivate a belligerent disposition. The trouble, such as it was, was derived from the rivalry of the Fire Companies. Whenever there was a fire the students "ran with the Union," a company which included among its members many intelligent young men. Members of other companies were consequently displeased, and sometimes attempted to provoke a fight. There was, however, no violent outbreak, and in course of time all became serene.

In these early days the students were greatly interested in politics. It was, indeed, a momentous period in the history of the country, and there was a general feeling that important events were near at hand. The slavery question was fiercely debated, and in the literary society which had the larger number of Southern members the feeling became intense. The prominence of Mr. Buchanan in

national affairs was not without its effect in making Lancaster a center of the gathering political storm. Even while he was minister to Great Britain Mr. Buchanan was regarded as the leading Democratic candidate for the presidency, and most of the students were naturally enthusiastic for his nomination.

Mr. Buchanan had been a faithful friend of the college. While it was in Mercersburg he had bought a scholarship for five hundred dollars, and at its removal to Lancaster he had contributed one thousand dollars to the fund which was then raised for the erection of buildings. As president of the Board of Trustees he was supposed to direct the policy of the institution; and when he was in Lancaster he was always present at its public exercises.

When Mr. Buchanan returned to Lancaster in the spring of 1856, there was little doubt of his nomination to the presidency of the United States. From this time he kept "open house," and the number of his visitors was very great. During the succeeding summer Lancaster was full of politicians, many of whom afterwards became famous on the field of battle. Of course, many of the students visited Wheatland almost every day, for the place was a center of never failing interest.

When Mr. Buchanan was nominated for the presidency by the Cincinnati Convention, in June, 1856, the college boys became intensely excited. A company of them were among the first to hear the news, and they all immediately started on a run to inform Mr. Buchanan of his nomination. In this race William A. Duncan—afterwards a member of Congress—is said to have won the prize. Very soon, however, a considerable company gathered on the lawn at Wheatland, and Mr. Buchanan made a pertinent

speech. In conclusion he said: "Yesterday I should have made a longer speech; but I must now remember that I am the representative of the Cincinnati Platform, and to that document I must refer you for a declaration of my principles." This utterance was used against him during the subsequent campaign.

At the society anniversaries Mr. Buchanan's courtesy was especially apparent. For each of the youthful speakers he had a kind word which was borne away as a precious remembrance. It was usual in those days to present bouquets to the orators, and some of them received a large number. Meeting a student after an exhibition carrying a number of bouquets, Mr. Buchanan said pleasantly: "You are over-burdened with flowers." The student begged him to relieve him of part of the burden by accepting one of the bouquets. "O, no," he replied, "I will not rob you of your well-earned laurels."

At the Commencement held on July 23, 1856, Mr. W. W. Davis delivered the Marshall Oration on "The Decline of Political Integrity." In the course of his speech Mr. Davis denounced the conduct of Mr. Brooks who had recently committed a violent assault on Senator Sumner. Mr. Buchanan afterwards told him that he looked on the dark side of the picture, and that though Mr. Brooks had been inconsiderate, his act had not been without serious provocation. The incident was, of course, reported to the New York *Tribune*, and became the subject of a violent political article.

It was in an address to the students of Franklin and Marshall College, in November, 1856, that Mr. Buchanan for the first time outlined his policy of conciliation, declaring that the object of his administration would be "to de-

stroy any sectional party, whether in the north or in the south, and to restore national and fraternal feeling between the different sections."<sup>1</sup> Alas! that such brilliant anticipations were doomed to disappointment, and that the later years of the president were clouded with sorrow.

Though the college enjoyed a certain prominence in consequence of the intimate relations with Mr. Buchanan, there were conditions that interfered greatly with its prosperity. For several years the institution was without a president, and there was no immediate prospect that the vacancy would be filled. The ability of the professors was recognized, but there was not one of them who could claim precedence, except in age, and the college was actually without a head. Professor W. M. Nevin presided at the meetings of the Faculty but was not otherwise prominent in the government of the institution.

Under such circumstances effectual discipline was almost impossible. Thus, at the very time when enthusiasm and vigorous action should have carried the institution a long distance on its way to prosperity, there was no one to serve as leader and representative before the Church and the community. In the following chapter we hope to show how this difficulty was finally and fortunately overcome.

<sup>1</sup> "The American Cyclopædia," edition of 1879, page 381.



## CHAPTER XXI.

### ELECTING A PRESIDENT.

DR. JOHN W. NEVIN'S ELECTION—LETTER OF DECLINATION—CALL TO  
DR. PHILIP SCHAFF—HIS REPLY—DR. SCHAFF'S VISIT TO  
GERMANY—ELECTION OF DR. E. V. GERHART—  
ACCEPTANCE.

The fact that Dr. John W. Nevin, the former president of Marshall College, declined to accompany that institution to Lancaster, presented a serious difficulty. Every possible means was employed to induce him to reconsider his decision. His former students united in an appeal which he must have found it hard to resist. The majority of the new Board of Trustees appeared convinced that he was the only man who could make the College what it ought to be, and for a long time they hoped against hope that he might finally be induced to accept their call. That Dr. Nevin remained unmoved by successive appeals appeared to them an indication of the strength of will and firmness of character which were essential to the man who was to be the successful leader of a new educational movement.

There was, indeed, a minority who were ready to submit to conditions which they regarded as inevitable, and who consequently urged the immediate election of a president who would be willing to accept their call. Though they declared their willingness to unite with the majority in the election of Dr. Nevin, if there were the slightest indication of his willingness to accept their invitation, they urged that no time was to be lost and that a president should be chosen who would be willing to enter upon the

duties of his office without delay. Some of the minority even insisted that the president of the College ought not to have been prominently connected with recent theological controversies. They accordingly proposed the name of the Rev. Dr. John F. Mesick, pastor of the Reformed church of Harrisburg.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Mesick was greatly interested in the new College and served for several years as the Vice-President of its Board of Trustees. That his theological views did not harmonize with those of Dr. Nevin is evident.

On the 2d of March, 1853, Dr. Mesick was nominated for the presidency of Franklin and Marshall College. Immediately it was moved that the name of Dr. Nevin be substituted for that of Dr. Mesick, and the former was elected by a vote of nineteen to thirteen, with one *non liquet*. It was ordered that Dr. Nevin be immediately informed of the action of the Board, and that he be urged to accept the call. In response the following letter was received:

“MERCERSBURG, March 30, 1853.

“TO THE HON. JAMES BUCHANAN, THE REV. N. A. KEYES,  
AND THE REV. H. HARBAUGH,

“*Gentlemen*, Your communication of the 19th inst., informing me of my having been elected President of Franklin and Marshall College has been received.

<sup>1</sup> John F. Mesick was born at Guilderland, Albany County, New York, June 28, 1813. Graduated at Rutgers College, 1834. Pastor, Reformed (Dutch) Church, Rochester, N. Y., 1837-40; German Reformed Church, Harrisburg, 1840-5. Returned to Dutch Church. Pastor, Raritan, N. Y., 1855-82. Subsequently without charge. He contributed frequently to “The Guardian” and to the “Protestant Quarterly.” Among his publications are “The Papacy the Anti-Christ of Scripture,” “Evils of Dancing,” “Temperance and Patriotism,” etc. He is still living in York, Pa., at the age of ninety-one.

“For the honor thus done me by the Board of the Institution I beg leave to return through you my very respectful and sincere thanks. It is hardly necessary to add that, notwithstanding my previously announced views and feelings on the subject, the peculiar circumstances of the call, backed as it has been by urgent private appeals from all sides, have engaged me to treat it with the most anxious and serious consideration. The question of duty in the case has been conscientiously reëxamined in the fear of God, with proper time and pains taken to avoid the reproach of a rash decision.

“The result of this new deliberation is, that I find myself constrained to decline respectfully the call which you have placed in my hands in behalf of the Board of Trustees of Franklin and Marshall College; and you will please to receive and make known this letter accordingly, as my refusal in form to accept the honorable and responsible post to which I have been appointed.

“It is not necessary, I presume, that I should enter minutely into the reasons by which my mind has been influenced in coming to this decision. Had the measure of removing Marshall College to Lancaster been carried through at once when it was first proposed, it was my purpose, in case it had been desired, to unite myself with the new institution for a few years; but always with the expectation of being able to fulfil my previous wish by retiring from a position into which I had been forced at first without my own will, and which I found to be in many respects not a little irksome and severe. By the delay of the removal the time to which I looked forward for this liberty of retiring has been already reached; and I cannot feel that I am now required to take a step which to be of any account must bind me again for some years, if not indefinitely in time to come. To no such prospective engagement can my mind at present be reconciled. It would be impossible for me to

throw myself into it with that sort of confidence and animation, that buoyancy of spirit and determination of zeal, which the success of the enterprise demands. Other claims and interests, partly of health, partly of taste and comfort, but most of all, I may say, in the form now of theological inquiry and religious conscience, stand powerfully in the way of my assuming responsibilities in this form, which reach with such uncertain distance into the future, and the bearing of which it is so impossible beforehand to calculate or foresee. With these views, I feel that it would be wrong for me to commit myself for life, or any considerable period of time, to the engagement which is proposed to me in this call; and that it is best to decline the invitation in full and at once. No merely temporary or provisional service in the case could be expected to be of any material account. The present juncture seems to offer the most favorable opportunity I can expect for carrying out my ultimate purpose, and it would appear to be but right and proper that it should be now firmly embraced for this end. Having come to such conclusion then, after full and sufficient deliberation, I lose no time in reporting to you the fact; so as to have it understood that the important post in question is still vacant; and in order that the way may be open for a new election to fill it, if it be thought proper, at the next meeting of the Board.

“With the best wishes for the prosperity of Franklin and Marshall College, and praying that God may be pleased to preside over the conduct of its affairs, and to make them all subservient to his praise,

“I remain, Gentlemen,

“Very respectfully yours,

“JOHN W. NEVIN.”

There was great disappointment when the letter of Dr. Nevin was read, but it was now acknowledged that there must be no further delay. On the next day, April 19, an

election was held for president of the College and Dr. Philip Schaff was chosen. Twenty-five votes were cast for Dr. Schaff and eleven for Dr. Mesick, with two *non liquet*. It was supposed that the call would be immediately accepted, for it was known that Dr. Schaff and his family would have been well pleased to remove to Lancaster; but here an unexpected obstacle intervened. In a letter of acknowledgment Dr. Schaff informed the Board that his engagements with the Theological Seminary at Mercersburg were of such a nature that it would be "both unconstitutional and disrespectful" to accept or decline the call without consulting the Synod. He, therefore, asked permission to hold the call under consideration until after the meeting of that body, to be held in the following October. The desired permission was granted, though at the time delay seemed dangerous. In the following letter the result of the application to Synod is fully related:

"LANCASTER, PA., Nov. 1, 1853.

"REV. H. HARBAUGH, COR. SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE,

"*Reverend and dear Sir:* Agreeably to my last letter addressed to you as the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Franklin and Marshall College, I tendered my resignation as Professor in the Theological Seminary at Mercersburg to the Eastern Synod of the German Reformed Church, lately convened in the city of Philadelphia, with the view to accept the call to the Presidency of the College, at least for some time, until a more permanent arrangement could be made which would be satisfactory to both parties. I had hoped that such a disposition could be made of my request, which would meet the expressed wish of the Trustees of Franklin and Marshall College without interfering at all



with the interests of the Theological Seminary now located at Mercersburg.

"I have now to give you the information that the Synod, although deeply sympathizing with the present urgent wants of the College, felt itself constrained nevertheless to refuse my resignation by the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, that Synod cannot consent to relinquish the services of the Rev. Dr. Schaff, or to his retirement from the chair which he has so ably and faithfully filled in our Seminary.'

"Although the result is somewhat contrary to my expectations, I have, of course, no idea of disobeying the voice of my Church, especially since I am convinced that the above action proceeded from the kindest feelings to myself and from sincere regard to the interests of the Seminary at Mercersburg.

"I consider it, therefore, my painful duty, to decline without delay the office of the Presidency of Franklin and Marshall College, which you did me the honor to offer in the name of the Board in April last, and thus to open the way for another election, or for such interimistic arrangement as may seem best to the wisdom of the Board.

"Thanking the Board once more for the confidence placed in my humble abilities, and assuring you of the deep interest which I shall continue to cherish in all that may concern the promising literary institution under its care—an institution which I am fully convinced has a great mission to perform to this country and perhaps to the world—I subscribe myself, with the highest regard,

"Your obedient servant,

"PHILIP SCHAFF."

That Dr. Schaff was deeply disappointed by the action of the Synod we have heard from his own lips. Not to

mention other grounds, it may be taken for granted that after the removal of the college his position in Mercersburg was lonely and depressing. His health began to fail and in the winter of 1853-54 he visited Europe. In Leipsic, on the 6th of March, 1854, he issued a circular, addressed to the publishers of Germany, earnestly soliciting the contribution of new and valuable books to the library of Franklin and Marshall College. In presenting the claims of the institution the author may have been rather too enthusiastic, for he boldly anticipated the time when the little college should have grown to be a great university. "Its prevailing character," he said, "is Anglo-Germanic; that is, it seeks to bring about an organic union of the best elements of English and German culture. Most of its professors are familiar with both languages; why should it not in time grow to be an institution with four faculties, after the German type, such as does not now exist in America?" All this, he is careful to say, depends on public liberality, and especially on the interest taken by the government of the state, whose good offices may in due time be solicited.

As a result of this appeal the College received four hundred and fifty valuable works which together presented an excellent *résumé* of the current literature of Germany. An acknowledgment of the receipt of these volumes was sent by the Board to the leading papers of Berlin.

After Dr. Schaff had declined the presidency the Board appeared to be for a time at their wit's end. Dissensions began to appear and every little coterie had its favorite candidate. A year passed and still the college remained without a president. An effort was made, in 1854, to gather funds for the endowment of a professorship of English literature, but the attempt proved unsuccessful and contributions were returned to the donors.

It was on the 25th of July, 1854, that Dr. William Mayburry, of Philadelphia, secured the adoption of a resolution referring the election of a president to a committee of seven, directing them, if possible, to nominate a candidate on whom all could cordially unite. It is not often that such a result is achieved in this way; but on this occasion the plan actually proved successful. Next day Dr. Mayburry, as chairman of the committee, nominated the Rev. E. V. Gerhart,<sup>1</sup> of Tiffin, Ohio. Dr. Gerhart had not the most remote idea that he would even be nominated, and the notice of his election came to him as a great surprise. He had, however, been very successful in building up the institutions at Tiffin, and it was this fact that suggested his call to Lancaster. He was at this time thirty-seven years old, and in the full possession of health and strength. In physical as well as mental vigor he was gifted beyond most of his contemporaries, and all his powers were needed in the great work to which he had been called. The following is a copy of his letter of acceptance:

“Tiffin, O., Sept. 30, 1854.

“To REV. S. BOWMAN, D.D., AND REV. N. A. KEYES, REC.  
SEC. OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FRANKLIN AND  
MARSHALL COLLEGE:

“*Dear Sirs:* Perhaps I have kept the Board of Trustees in suspense somewhat longer than it anticipated. This has not been done designedly. My only apology for the delay

<sup>1</sup> Emanuel Vogel Gerhart, D.D., LL.D., was born at Freeburg, Pa., June 13, 1817. Graduated at Marshall College, 1838. Ordained 1842. Pastor at Gettysburg, Pa., 1843-49. Missionary in Cincinnati, Ohio. President of Heidelberg College, Tiffin, O., and Professor in Theological Seminary, 1851-55; president of F. and M. College, 1855-66; subsequently Professor of Systematic and Practical Theology at Mercersburg and Lancaster. Author of “Philosophy and Logic,” “Institutes of the Christian Religion,” etc.

of my final reply is, that my appointment to the Presidency of the Faculty and the Professorship of Moral and Intellectual Philosophy which you have communicated to me under date of July 27th, involved some difficult questions of duty that I could not solve to my satisfaction in the course of a few weeks. I have taken time for careful investigation and inquiry into all the facts that should influence my mind, and for serious and prayerful consideration of the subject in all its bearings upon that branch of the Protestant church of which I am a member and a minister, in order that my decision may have the full approval of my judgment and conscience.

“I now accept the appointment which you have tendered me in behalf of the Board of Trustees of Franklin and Marshall College.

“As I am at present holding the office of Professor of Theology in the Theological Seminary at Tiffin, O., I must comply with an article of the Constitution of the German Reformed Church which requires, that ‘when a Professor wishes to resign his office he shall give notice thereof to the President of the Board of Trustees six months previous to his resignation.’ Under date of the 27th inst., I sent my resignation to the President of the Synod of Ohio, to take effect on the first day of April, 1855, when, God willing, I intend to remove to Lancaster and enter upon the duties of my office.

“The trust which, in accordance with the unanimous voice of your Board, I have consented to assume, I feel to be solemn and difficult. In view of the direct relation of the College to Education, Science, and Religion in the Keystone State, especially among the Germans and their descendants who constitute a very large and influential proportion of the population; and in view of its intimate connection with the Church that will give to the Institution its exclusive patronage, in order to provide its candidates for the ministry

with the requisite preparatory training and instruction; I can not but be impressed with the fact that its mission is broad and momentous, involving vital interests of both Church and State. To preside in your Institution, under these circumstances, imposes a responsibility that I do not undertake without hesitation. All I can do is to unite my energies with those of the members of the Faculty already on the ground, in a vigorous and persevering effort to have it fulfil its mission. Whatever ability I may possess will be steadily and untiringly devoted to this end. Having decided to labor in the service of Franklin and Marshall College, I shall do it with all my heart.

“The chief reliance of the Faculty for efficient aid must be upon the sympathy, wisdom and activity of the Board of Trustees. My knowledge of its members, not residing in the city and county of Lancaster, as well as the favorable personal acquaintance I formed, during my recent visit, with those who are citizens and will always be in close contact with the College, affords me a guarantee that the necessary assistance and support will always be extended. The belief of this fact has had no little influence on my mind in coming to a final decision. In the confidence that the Faculty will receive all the aid and co-operation from the Board that an enterprising spirit and comprehensive views of education dictate; and looking at the present and prospective resources as well as at all the relations of the Institution; I indulge in the hope that, honorable as its past history is, it will become more eminent still for thorough training and Christian science, and that, therefore, my time and strength will not only advance sound learning, but contribute also directly to the promotion of true religion. Without these hopes I could not give up the sphere of a pastor nor resign the office I hold in a Theological Seminary.



"Hoping that a bright future awaits the College with which in the Providence of God I am to be identified,

"I remain, with much respect,

"Your ob't serv't,

"E. V. GERHART."

It was a favorable circumstance that during the long interregnum the members of the Faculty were without exception men of ability and character. Though students were occasionally disobedient, then as now, it never occurred to them to doubt the learning of their preceptors. The personal relations of professors and students were intimate and cordial. It thus became possible to bridge a threatening chasm, and to prepare the way that led to solid ground.



## CHAPTER XXII.

### GROUND AND BUILDINGS.

GROUND AND BUILDINGS—PREPARATORY DEPARTMENTS—CHOOSING A  
SITE—PLAN OF COLLEGE BUILDING—HADEN PATRICK SMITH—  
LAYING OF CORNER-STONE AND DEDICATION—SOCIETY  
HALLS—ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS.

The archives of Franklin and Marshall College during its earliest years are in great part composed of legal documents, which though important in their day are not now particularly interesting. For our present purpose it may be enough to say that the real estate of Marshall College, situated in Mercersburg, was transferred to Franklin and Marshall on the 15th of June, 1853. The deed by which the property of Franklin College was similarly transferred is dated on the 28th day of the same month. The former deed was signed by John W. Nevin and the latter by James Buchanan. The Mercersburg property was offered by the Board to citizens of Mercersburg at a nominal price, to be used for educational purposes; but as they refused to accept the offer, it was finally sold to certain individuals of the same place for \$6,000. The Board was not unwilling to sell, and it is pleasant to know that the purchasers suffered no loss.

Franklin College was occupied until the new building of Franklin and Marshall was almost completed, and was then sold at public auction in December, 1855. The building is still standing, but has been divided into four residences. Several houses have since been built on ground which was then unoccupied.



Q. V. Gerhart



A remnant of the college lands in Bradford county was sold soon afterwards, and the records contain no further references to these ancient "benefactions of the state."

An academy was founded in Lancaster in 1853, under the direction of the Board of Trustees, by the Reverend Joshua H. Derr. A building was rented on East King street, but the number of students was small. In two years the school passed into the hands of Messrs. J. J. Naille and C. Beecher Wolff. In the meantime, however, a Preparatory Department was successfully maintained in Mercersburg by Clement Z. Weiser and Samuel G. Wagner.

That a new College Building was to be erected was fully understood at the time of the union of the colleges. It was, we remember, for this purpose that the sum of \$25,000 had been contributed by the citizens of Lancaster. There was, however, considerable difficulty in determining upon a site, for there were many persons in and near Lancaster who had land to sell. A tract at the western end of Orange street was strongly urged, and there were some who favored a location at the eastern end of the city.<sup>1</sup> One day the members of the Board took carriages, and visited all the sites that had been proposed. On their return it was found that they had become unanimous. There was, indeed, no location in Lancaster or its vicinity that could well be compared with the one which was finally chosen. It is the highest ground in Lancaster or its vicinity, but rises so gradually that the ascent is barely perceptible. "Thank God!" said Dr. Harbaugh, at the laying of the corner-stone, "the college stands higher than the jail. Edu-

<sup>1</sup> When this site was proposed President Buchanan said: "I do not think the best location for a literary institution is between the court-house and the jail."



cation must be lifted up and let crime sink to the lowest depths."

There were, of course, people who objected to the choice of the Board. What is now the campus, it must be remembered, was then composed of fields which were but slightly cultivated. The place had a peculiarly desolate appearance, and it was boldly asserted that trees would never grow upon that barren hill. It was not until 1855 that College Avenue was opened from the Harrisburg turnpike to Bachman's Lane.

The campus of the college includes about twenty-two acres. Ten acres, on which the main building stands, were bought of Jacob Griel for \$2,500. The rest was purchased in several tracts of Hartman Kuhn and Henry Becket, of Philadelphia.

The plan for the new building which was finally adopted was prepared by Dixon, Balbirnie and Dixon, architects, of Baltimore. The Building Committee, appointed by the Board, was composed as follows: Professor Thomas C. Porter, Christopher Hager, Joseph Konigmacher, the Honorable Henry G. Long, Robert McClure, and Jacob M. Long.

On the 31st of August, 1853, the Building Committee was authorized to enter into a contract for the erection of the College. At this point appears the contractor, Haden Patrick Smith, who was for several years an important personage, and who certainly made things exceedingly lively.

We regret our inability to furnish a biographical sketch of Mr. Smith, but he was indisputably an Irishman. He aimed to be regarded as "a gentleman of the old school," and was probably the last person in Lancaster to appear habitually in what is generally known as Continental cos-

tume. He was always carefully dressed, but his antiquated garments, and especially the "silver buckles on his knee," gave him an appearance which to the students, at least, was somewhat amusing.

According to the contract the College Building was to have been erected at a cost of eighteen thousand and twenty dollars; but it soon became evident that, on account of the rapid increase in the price of materials, it would actually cost considerably more. Mr. Smith claimed that the increase in the cost of materials amounted to between three and four thousand dollars, and insisted that, as a matter of equity, this sum should immediately be assumed by the Board. As the Building Committee manifested no disposition to display such extraordinary generosity, there was disagreement from the beginning. The contractor was of a fiery disposition and his conflicts with the chairman of the Building Committee were fierce and frequent.

The plan was changed in some respects, and this led to some confusion and to ultimate payments for extra work. The wings of the building were each extended ten feet; but, on the other hand, it was determined not to place a clock in the tower, as had originally been intended. It had been proposed to have a basement which was to be, in part at least, devoted to a laboratory, but this part of the plan was given up. The chapel, as then erected, had not more than one-half of its present length, an addition having been made at a subsequent period.

On the 24th of July, 1854—the day preceding Commencement—the corner-stone of the College Building was formally laid. A procession was formed at Franklin College, on Lime street, and proceeded to the grounds where

the building was to be erected. Hon. D. W. Patterson was chief marshal and many prominent citizens of Lancaster were in the line. The Rev. Dr. B. C. Wolff laid the corner-stone and the principal address was delivered by Dr. Harbaugh.

To relate the whole story of the building of the college would demand more space than we could possibly afford. It was a tangled affair, and several years passed before a settlement was finally effected. The whole cost of the Building, as then reported, was \$25,136.52½.

The new College was formally dedicated on the 16th of May, 1856. On this occasion addresses were delivered by the Rev. Dr. E. V. Gerhart and Emlen Franklin, Esq.

The literary societies were peculiarly unfortunate with regard to the time and circumstances of the erection of their new halls. In equity they ought to have been compensated for their losses by the removal from Mercersburg, but unfortunately the Board was not in a position to aid them to the extent which might have been desired. In response to their urgent appeals, the Board on August 31, 1853, resolved to renounce all claims for money advanced in Mercersburg; to give each society the sum of one thousand dollars, and to lend to each the sum of one thousand dollars for three years without interest. Now it was true that the Board had, in Mercersburg, advanced to each society about sixteen hundred dollars, which had never been repaid, but the fact had almost been forgotten, and the revival of the claim—even in this form—came to the societies as a great surprise. It was estimated by the Board that the actual loss to each society by the removal would in this way be reduced to about three thousand dollars.

It speaks well for the energy and enthusiasm of the literary societies that they were willing, under the circumstances, to undertake what was to them the gigantic task of erecting new halls. They were few in number, and many of the members were as poor as can well be imagined; but there was no hesitation. The corner-stones of the proposed halls were laid July 20, 1856. The students were willing to make all possible sacrifices, and there were not a few who actually suffered in order to be able to pay their subscriptions. One said, "I will stop smoking"; another declared his willingness to do without a new overcoat; but of them all, we believe, there was not one who refused to do his part. During vacation the students "begged" for the new halls, and succeeded in collecting a good deal of money. But the object was not one which readily commended itself to the sympathies of those whom they addressed. If they had collected for the college itself the responses might have been more liberal; but the people could not understand the purpose of the societies, and their contributions were, therefore, reluctant and small.

After the societies had each collected about \$5,000 they were compelled to confess that they had reached the limit of their ability. The expense of building was found to be much greater than it had been in Mercersburg; and before the buildings were completed a debt had accumulated which it seemed impossible to pay. The contractors were clamoring for their money, and even threatened legal process. It was a dark and dreary time; and the societies and their friends could discover no means of relief. Even the Board of Trustees could not help them, without decreasing the endowment, and with this they were bound by solemn agreement not to interfere. It was then that Dr. Gerhart



came to the relief of the distressed societies. Though in no way required to undertake the task, he voluntarily assumed the burden of collecting the money necessary to pay the debt that rested upon the Halls. That he actually secured between four and five thousand dollars was not the least of the achievements of his active energetic life. During his absence his place in the College was supplied by Dr. J. W. Nevin, who had in the meantime taken up his residence in the neighborhood of Lancaster. In 1859 both of these gentlemen were formally thanked by the Board of Trustees for their services in behalf of the literary societies.

The Goethean Society dedicated its hall on the 28th of July, 1857, and the address was delivered by Dr. Lewis H. Steiner, Professor of Chemistry in the Maryland College of Pharmacy. On the following day, July 29, similar exercises were held by the Diagnothian Society, and the address was delivered by the Rev. George B. Russell.<sup>1</sup> The latter orator based his discourse on the motto of the society, and announced his theme as "The Principle of Virtue and the Virtue of Principle."

In 1855 Dr. Harbaugh proposed the erection of a large boarding-house, to the known as "Marshall Hall." Its main purpose, as originally suggested, was to accommodate students for the ministry. Plans were secured and a lithograph of the proposed building was published; but financial difficulties prevented its immediate erection. The project was subsequently revived, as we shall see hereafter, and was named "Harbaugh Hall." Though the latter structure no longer stands, it holds a place in the memory of many alumni.

<sup>1</sup> These dates are taken from the title-pages of the addresses, as published by the societies in pamphlet form.



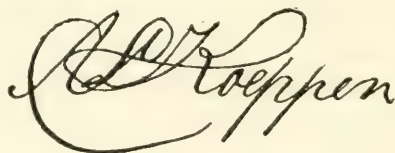
The buildings enumerated in this chapter—including the Janitor's house, the erection of which was ordered in 1856—constitute the original group, to which others were added as circumstances demanded. Though some of the latter are more beautiful and convenient, the old College, with its lofty tower, still overlooks them all.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### PROFESSOR KOEPPEN.

SCHOLAR AND HISTORIAN—EARLY LIFE—PROFESSOR IN GREECE—RE-  
MOVAL TO AMERICA—AN IMPRESSIVE LECTURER—PERSONAL  
ECCENTRICITIES—LITERARY WORK—LEAVES LANCASTER  
—RETURNS TO GREECE—TUTOR TO THE CROWN  
PRINCE—LAST DAYS.

As has already been stated, Professor Koeppen was, in 1853, elected professor of History and Modern Languages. Through trials and troubles innumerable he held this position for eight years—constantly worried by students who loved him in their own peculiar way—and finally leaving Lancaster amid an unexpected chorus of regret. That he was a remarkable man is indicated by the quaint sayings and amusing anecdotes which gather about his name. Many of the stories which are now related are probably

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "A. Koeppen". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first letter "A" being large and ornate, and the "Koeppen" part following in a more fluid, connected script.

apocryphal; but those which are undoubtedly authentic represent him as one of the most peculiar persons that ever occupied the chair of a professor in an American college.

The learning of Professor Koeppen has never been doubted; but it may not be generally known that in his special department he ranked among the foremost men of his time. While he was connected with Franklin and Marshall College he published a work in two volumes,

entitled "The World in the Middle Ages," which is still valuable. It is not properly a history; but rather an historical geography, giving a full account of the political changes which occurred during the mediæval period. Concerning this work Dr. Charles Kendall Adams says:<sup>1</sup> "The author has made ample use of the best geographical authorities, and has brought together a vast amount of minute information on subjects that are often very obscure. . . . The book will be found too dry for the general reader; but for a student in want of geographical details it has great value." That a man who could perform such honorable work deserves to be remembered in an institution for which he labored will be readily acknowledged, and we shall, therefore, give at some length the biographical facts which have come to our knowledge.

Adolphus Louis Koeppen was born in the city of Copenhagen, Denmark, February 14, 1804. His father was a merchant, but several of his ancestors had been engaged in literary pursuits. He had an only sister to whom he was sincerely attached, and who, like himself, remained unmarried.

The schools of Copenhagen have always been celebrated, and the university is an institution of the highest rank. At the time when Koeppen was a student the latter institution was however in a somewhat depressed condition. The buildings had been destroyed during the British bombardment, and the university occupied temporary quarters which the professor described as very uncomfortable. "Lectures," he said, "were delivered all over town." In the meantime, however, the funds were increasing, and the university was finally enabled to erect a suitable building.

<sup>1</sup>"Manual of Historical Literature," p. 155.

Professor Koeppen's father had destined him for a military career, but he did not take kindly to mathematics, which were considered essential to success. As a classical scholar he took high rank, and acquired modern languages without apparent effort. From the first he studied history with intense delight, and according to the manner of the times he exercised his marvellous memory in committing its minute details.

It was in the days of the Greek revolution and every student was full of enthusiasm for awakened Hellas. Prince Otho, of Bavaria, was made King of Greece; and two years after his accession Koeppen followed him. Travelling by easy stages—generally on foot and studying antiquities by the way—he finally reached Athens. At first he was greatly disappointed, because he could not make the people understand his ancient Greek. It took him six months to acquire the modern forms of speech, but then, as he said, it all came at once.

In 1834 King Otho invited Koeppen to occupy the professorship of history, archæology and modern languages in the Royal College of the Euelpides, which was then situated on the Island of Ægina.<sup>1</sup> It was a position that exactly suited him. Near at hand were the remains of the temple of Zeus Panhellenicus, where, a few years earlier, had been discovered the magnificent antique statues which were repaired by Thorwaldsen and are now in Munich. Hardly a day passed without the discovery of some interesting relic of antiquity, and the professor was very happy. When the college was removed to Athens, and called a university, he continued to fill his chair with great accept-

<sup>1</sup> See Koeppen's article on "The Island of Ægina," in the *Mercersburg Review*.

ance. In vacation he took long pedestrian journeys and made many archæological discoveries. He is said to have been the first among modern geographers to trace the third of the long walls of Athens, known as the Phaleric wall. It is also asserted that he was the first to direct attention to the "imperceptible curves" which are peculiarly characteristic of Greek architecture. When he started on his long pedestrian journeys he carried with him a bag of dried biscuit and onions which were sometimes for weeks his only food, except the figs which he gathered on the way. At night he could find a resting-place under any tree, for he was never affected by malaria. The country was full of brigands, but he did not fear them. Like Schliemann, at a later date, he disarmed them by reciting passages from Homer, or by eloquently addressing them on the ancient glories of Greece.

After nine years there was a revolt against the German system of government in Greece, and all foreigners were required to leave the country. Koeppen parted from his Greek friends with sincere regret, but as he was a foreigner he had to go with the rest.

He then took a long journey through oriental countries, where, he said, every moment was a delight. How long he remained in the Orient we do not certainly know; but it was long enough to become somewhat familiar with the languages and social life of the people.

Returning to Denmark he spent three years in his native country. In the autumn of 1846 he came to America and spent the succeeding years in delivering lectures on history to literary institutions and learned societies. In this way he addressed the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Lowell Institute in Boston, the Smithsonian Institu-



tion, the University of Virginia, and other similar bodies. Though he was grammatically familiar with the English language and spoke it fluently, his pronunciation was defective, and this fact must have interfered with his success as a lecturer. In 1852 he addressed a lyceum in Lancaster, and made the acquaintance of Dr. Bowman, who subsequently secured his election to a professorship in Franklin and Marshall College. Weary of wandering he accepted the call, though the circumstances of the institution were far from encouraging.

In foreign universities Koeppen was no doubt a successful lecturer, but he was utterly unable to adapt himself to new conditions. His learning was, of course, more than adequate, but like many other eminent men he could not bear to spend his time in teaching rudiments. "Is this a college," he would exclaim, "two colleges in one—or is it only a grammar school?" As a lecturer he was impressive and at times eloquent, but his eccentricities prevented him from receiving the appreciation which he deserved. His descriptions of scenery must be characterized as magnificent, and his early military training enabled him to depict battles with great accuracy. He seemed to imagine himself in the thick of the battle, and sometimes he jumped on a chair and hurrahed when the field was won.

Though the professor's historical memory was marvellous he often failed to remember the most ordinary affairs of daily life. He was frequently unable to recall the names of the several classes—such as Freshman and Sophomore—and sometimes prefaced a lecture by inquiring: "Is this the Freshamore class?" This naturally caused amusement, and as the professor could not comprehend its occasion, he became excited, and burst forth in a

long string of expletives which were fortunately expressed in foreign tongues. He could never be induced to keep a roll, and rarely called a student by his proper name. In his efforts to remember surnames he seems to have tried some system of association, which failed him at the critical moment. If a student's name had been "Lamb," he would probably have called him "Mr. Sheep"; or if it had been "Hare," he might have insisted on naming him "Mr. Rabbit." That he called Mr. Orr, "Mr. Gold," was probably due to the fact that in his mind Orr, which he pronounced "Ore," was suggestive of "gold ore"; but why he always insisted on calling Mr. Balsbaugh, "Mr. Goodrich" we have never been able to determine.

In stature Professor Koeppen was rather short, but muscular and vigorous. He had a small head, partly bald, and wore a large moustache, which was then a very unusual ornament. His general bearing was military, and in conversation he was genial and courteous. Nothing afforded him so much pleasure as to be visited by students, and it was certainly a rich treat to spend an hour in his society. His dress was scrupulously neat, though its fashion seemed strange and foreign. It was said that he not only dressed for dinner, but for lunch too. His wardrobe must have been very extensive, for with every day he seemed to present surprises, especially in the matter of waistcoats and cravats. In the evening he was fond of wearing an Arabian costume, and occasionally he took a walk arrayed in this peculiar manner. Of course, on such occasions he was followed by a crowd of little boys, and once he is said to have been arrested as a suspicious character.

Professor Koeppen was an early riser, and took long walks in all kinds of weather. Once, when he came to col-

lege at eleven o'clock, some one inquired: "Professor, have you been taking a walk this morning?" "O, a little walk," he replied, "to Ephrata and return." Ephrata is at least thirteen miles from Lancaster. Sometimes his jaunts were much longer. In company with a student he took a walk from Lancaster to the Catskill Mountains. On their way they visited the present writer, who accompanied them for a few miles. The professor had a peculiar swinging gait, and it was difficult to keep up with him. He seemed perfectly happy, singing college songs and shouting for joy. Walking he regarded as a panacea for all kinds of ills. "When I feel unwell," he often said, "I take a long walk, and that drives out the evil one." In a letter written from Germany in 1862, he says: "I have been *hors du combat*, at least for active war, all summer, on account of that thrice-horrible vertigo, which made me stagger and reel on the street, brought me into danger on the staircase, and made me flee even the very innocent sun of cold and rainy Saxony. At last, in my despair, I resolved to run it away; and since you, dear pedestrian companion, were beyond the Atlantic, I chose for my chum a fine young Greek gentleman, Prince Michael Sturtza, a boarder at the pension where I dwell. We made a quick march to the valley of Tarandt, fifteen English miles from Dresden, and back the same evening, without dinner or refreshment. I retired almost sinking (having kept the strictest diet for a month), and instead of sweet sleep in the arms of Morpheus, I had violent fever all night long. Very angry at this I next day accepted an invitation to the American Rev. Dr. Lowman, an excellent preacher who was just leaving for Denmark. Mr. Magraw and myself found there a very charming company of young ladies from New York

and Boston and some German barons and heroes who were whipt in Denmark in 1848. I spoke there some five or six languages, all was excitement, my fever helped me wonderfully and I again helped my fever by drinking some glasses of strong punch; this proved a most excellent remedy—it forced Mephistopheles to show his cloven foot. Think of my astonishment when next day, fever, vertigo—all gone, but my neck, shoulders and left arm covered with erysipelas. I kept in my room, then took a hot bath, and all was gone like a dream. So I am myself again; my paroxysm lasted from June 5, on the Acropolis, to middle of August, Dresden. Now I would challenge you to a trip into Bohemia and the *Ertzgebirge* (Brass mountains), if you are not mustering for the James river or Shenandoah.”

That the students in Lancaster were personally attached to Professor Koeppen has already been intimated; but there were times when the temptation to worry him proved irresistible. Of discipline he had not the remotest idea. Sometimes he got along pretty well for a good while without it, but suddenly there was an outbreak of disorder which disturbed the whole institution.

Professor Koeppen’s religious views appear to have been somewhat vague, and were indicated rather by shrugging his shoulders than by actual speech. He said: “I am a Lutheran, but I believe what I please.” In Lancaster he generally attended St. James’ Episcopal church, where he attracted attention by holding his hat before his face for a few moments before taking his seat. This is a European mode of offering silent prayer and he never laid it aside. One Sunday he did not go to church, but spent the morning in completing the manuscript of his history. As soon as the work was finished he ran to the church and, entering



the vestry room, immediately after the congregation had been dismissed, exclaimed: "Rejoice with me, Dr. Bowman! My book is done! My book is done! See, the ink is on my fingers yet. Rejoice! Rejoice!" It never occurred to the old historian that there was any impropriety in rejoicing at such a time and place.

For people who pretend to be more pious than others he professed great contempt, and for some now forgotten reason called them "camels and dromedaries." It was his constant grievance that in America "camels and dromedaries" are more likely to be respected than men of science. That he took pleasure in ridiculing "white chokers" was not calculated to render him popular with those who wore them. Once the Board of Trustees warned him to put religion into his teaching. For some time afterwards he occasionally stopped in a lecture and said: "The Board of Trustees wants religion in my lectures. Here is a good place to put in a little. Consider it put!"

Koeppen was a historian of a school that laid stress on particulars, without taking sufficient account of underlying principles. Of the true meaning of history as the development of the life of God in the world he evidently had not the slightest conception. When he received a warning on the subject he inquired in utter astonishment: "What has God to do with history?" In its own way his teaching was, however, not without effect. His enthusiasm was contagious, and his magnificent descriptions of historic scenes stimulated the imagination. He had a proper conception of one of the purposes of history when he said: "I want you to be able to see absent things as if they were present." Many of his pupils acquired a fondness for historic reading which they retained during all subsequent years.



Professor Koeppen's recitations became more and more disorderly. For their conduct the students were no doubt greatly to be blamed; but the eccentricities of the professor furnished innumerable provocations. It was said that he had "spells," during which he was believed to be irresponsible. To tell the story of his peculiar "capers" would more than fill a volume.

It was evident that such a state of affairs could not be permanent. The Board was, however, unwilling to take radical measures, and it was hoped that he could be induced to resign. In 1858 a resolution was actually adopted which directed the secretary to inform the professor that "on account of its financial embarrassments" it would be necessary to dispense with his services; but on the following day this action was reconsidered, and it was resolved to reduce his salary to five hundred dollars. The professor was not, however, disposed to take such hints. If the board was embarrassed, he said, he was willing to make all possible sacrifices. He was not teaching for money, and he thought five hundred dollars would support him comfortably. Affairs grew worse, and in 1861 the Board resolved to dispense with his services. Then the sympathy of the students was excited, and there was much dissatisfaction. At the Commencement, on the following day, the Valedictorian ventured to reflect on the Board for removing a favorite professor. The President of the College immediately directed him to take his seat; and as he declined to do so the band was directed to play. Some members of the graduating class became greatly excited and there was much confusion. The valedictory was subsequently delivered from the balcony of an adjoining building, but the exercises of Commencement were brought to a

violent conclusion. The valedictorian and another member of the class were refused their diplomas; but they subsequently confessed their errors and a reconciliation was finally effected.

Professor Koeppen left Lancaster almost immediately after these events, and sailed for Europe in the following September. He traveled extensively, spending some time in Greece, Italy and Spain. In the letter from which we have already quoted he declares himself perfectly happy. "In the morning," he says, "I take a long run, and in the evening I study my beloved Greek worthies. Since I left New York last September I have read the entire Iliad and Odyssee (for the third time) with commentary, most of the comedies of Aristophanes both in ancient and modern Greek, Thucydides, Aeschylus entirely, and parts of Sophocles and Euripides. O, how far more interesting are they when read in Greece, under the deep, blue sky, and on the phosphoric waves of the Mediterranean!"

Before completing his wanderings the professor revisited America, and paid a prolonged visit to his friends in Lancaster. Then he returned to Greece and the King made him tutor to the Crown Prince. He became very popular, and though few of the people remembered his name, he was known throughout the country as "*Ho Didaskalos*." As his royal pupil was very young his duties as tutor were not very onerous, and he spent much time in examining the newspapers of other countries and translating such articles as he thought the King would find interesting. As a member of the royal suite, he was required to attend the King on his morning rides; and on one of these occasions occurred the accident which ultimately caused his death. Etiquette demanded that the King should mount first, and

that the members of his court should follow immediately. Failing to leap to the saddle at the proper moment, Koeppen's foot caught in the stirrup and he was dragged some distance. On his partial recovery he solicited an audience with the King and said: "Your Majesty, I am an old man and cannot mount my horse as quickly as the younger officers of your court." Then he received the privilege of mounting before the rest of the suite, so that he might be ready when the King appeared. He was not able to make much use of this privilege, as it was found that his injuries were more serious than was at first supposed. In the hope of recovering his health he once more started on his travels; but growing weaker returned to Athens, where he died April 14, 1873.

With all his peculiarities Professor Koeppen was a man of sterling integrity, and as such was universally respected. He was a delightful companion and a faithful friend. In many houses he was a welcome guest, and his old-fashioned courtesy was highly appreciated. His failure in the classroom was chiefly due to the peculiarities of his temperament; but he was personally so agreeable—so generous and kind—that he has been long and affectionately remembered.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### KALEVALA AND HIAWATHA.

AN EMINENT PROFESSOR—CLERGYMAN, BOTANIST AND LITERARY  
CRITIC—AN AMERICAN EPIC—INTERESTING LECTURES—  
TRANSLATIONS—LATER YEARS.

Dr. Thomas C. Porter, who had accompanied the College on its removal from Mercersburg, continued to occupy the chair of Natural Sciences until 1866. That he was a distinguished botanist is well known; but it is possible that his literary ability may not be so generally appreciated. His skill as a translator of prose and poetry was, however,

*Thos. C. Porter*

remarkable, and his familiarity with the niceties of language quite unusual. In several languages his reading was extensive, and there can be no doubt that he was a man of the highest culture.

As has already been mentioned<sup>1</sup> Dr. Porter was born at Alexandria, in Huntington county, and was, as he himself said, "a German Scotch-Irishman." His father was a Presbyterian elder, and his mother was a granddaughter of John Conrad Bucher,<sup>2</sup> an early German Reformed

<sup>1</sup> "History of Marshall College," p. 197.

<sup>2</sup> John Conrad Bucher was born at Schaffhausen, Switzerland, June 10, 1730 and died at Lebanon, Pa., August 13, 1780. He was educated for the ministry; but for some now forgotten reason enlisted in the army of Holland, and was subsequently transferred to the British service. Having come to America he rose to the rank of captain and distinguished himself in several battles with the Indians.

minister. Though he was proud of his paternal descent he was always most closely attached to his mother's people. After graduating at Lafayette, he served for some time as pastor of a Presbyterian church in Georgia, but returned to Pennsylvania to take charge of a new Reformed church in Reading. Even at this time his fondness for natural history was well known, and on the resignation of Dr. Traill Green he was called to a professorship in Mercersburg. He was a fine preacher, but was more familiar with science than any other minister of the Reformed church, and it was recognized as his duty to accept the call.

In Lancaster Dr. Porter served the college in many ways. He was the chairman of the building committee and, it has been said, "fought the battles of the college." As a teacher of science—and particularly botany—he was always interesting; and when he started out on long botanical excursions the students followed him gladly. It was said that no one since the days of Muhlenberg had made himself so thoroughly familiar with the flora of Lancaster county. An annual excursion to Safe Harbor with the Sophomore class, at the season when *Nymphæa* and *Pontederia* were in bloom, was an occasion long to be remembered. At such times the professor laid aside the dignity of the class-room and there was plenty of fun.

Even in those days Dr. Porter was hard at work on his *Flora of Pennsylvania*, and many more or less apocryphal stories were related concerning his enthusiasm in the collection of specimens. Once late in autumn, it was said, he swam across a stream to secure a rare plant while his com-

Deeply impressed by the religious necessities of the German people he resigned from the army and was ordained a minister. He founded the Reformed church at Carlisle, and was pastor at Lebanon and other places, serving also as a chaplain in the Revolution.



panions stood shivering on the bank. On another occasion, somewhere in the West, he lost his way in the woods and subsisted for some days on roots and fungi. Such stories may have been mere inventions, but it is certain that Dr. Porter was a hard worker, and that besides collecting a large herbarium he performed a great deal of excellent literary work. He published a prose version of Goethe's "Hermann und Dorothea," a translation of Schaff's "Life of St. Augustine," and a "Life of Zwingli," after the German of Hottinger.

It has been said that Dr. Porter and Professor Koeppen could not agree; but this we think is an exaggeration. It is true that Koeppen could at times be sufficiently provoking; as, for instance, when he reproved a class in Dr. Porter's presence for "wasting their time in the *childish* pursuit of collecting flowers, when they might be occupied in studying the affairs of nations." Dr. Porter, however, was not vindictive, and the professors were generally very good friends.

As a literary critic Dr. Porter was keen and sometimes cutting. He could be exceedingly sarcastic, and his criticisms were not always gratefully received. In a poetic composition no one was more capable of supplying the missing word. The author has elsewhere related<sup>1</sup> an incident which may serve as an illustration of his peculiar methods. Dr. Harbaugh had, in 1857, published in *The Guardian* a poem entitled "The Mystic Weaver," in which the processes of history are profoundly represented by the beautiful analogy of the weaver's work. In its earliest issue the poem begins:

<sup>1</sup>"Eulogy on Thomas Conrad Porter," Proceedings of Pennsylvania-German Society, 1901.

"Weaver at his loom is sitting,  
Throws the shuttle to and fro."

When Dr. Porter read these lines in Dr. Harbaugh's study, he assumed stupidity and inquired: "Weaver at his loom is sitting—is that Jim Weaver or Bill Weaver?" Of course, Dr. Harbaugh was indignant, and under protest explained the purpose of his lines. "O," said Dr. Porter, "if that is your meaning, would it not be better, instead of

'Weaver at his loom is sitting,'

to write

At his loom the weaver, sitting,  
Throws his shuttle to and fro?"

Dr. Harbaugh took the hint, and it is thus that the poem appears in his published volume.

In 1855 Longfellow published his "Hiawatha." The poem was everywhere received with the most extravagant praise. It was supposed to be original in substance, form and meter, and was declared to be "the long expected American epic." Hiawatha became a "craze" and many imitations were published.

One day Dr. Porter was examining Professor Koeppen's library, and there he found a recent German version of the "Kalevala," the national epic of Finland. He became interested, and was greatly surprised to find that not only the meter but many of the incidents of "Hiawatha" were unquestionably derived from the ancient Finnish poem. The poem of Hiawatha was splendid, but it lacked the originality which is essential to the highest order of literary composition. It was not a plagiarism, but in many important respects it was unquestionably an imitation. In meter, form, and the use of similar incidents the resemblance was too close to be accidental.

Dr. Porter imported the original poem from Finland and devoted much time to its study. In the work of translation he was assisted by Professor Koeppe and by Professor Castrén, a native of Finland who was then visiting Lancaster. The latter was, we believe, a near relative of the gentleman who first translated "Kalevala" into the Swedish language.

The English versions of passages from the "Kalevala," published by Dr. Porter in the *Mercersburg Review* for October, 1856, are excellent—fully equal to those contained in the translation of the whole poem which has since been published.<sup>1</sup>

To enable the reader to observe the resemblance of the two compositions, especially in style and manner of construction, we quote a few lines from each—premising that hundreds of similar resemblances may be found elsewhere.

The following is an extract from the prelude to "Kalevala":

"These the words we have received,  
These the songs we do inherit,  
Are from Wainamoinen's girdle,  
From the forge of Ilmarinen,  
Of the sword of Kaukomieli,  
Of the bow of Joukahainen,  
Of the borders of the North-field,  
Of the plains of Kalewala."

"Hiawatha" is thus introduced:

"Should you ask me whence these stories,  
Whence these legends and traditions,  
With the odors of the forests,  
With the dew and damp of wigwams,  
With the rushing of great rivers,  
With their frequent repetitions,

<sup>1</sup>"The Kalevala," by John Martin Crawford, two volumes, New York, 1888.

And their wild reverberations  
As of thunder in the mountains?  
I should answer, I should tell you,  
From the forests and the prairies,  
From the great lakes of the Northland,  
From the land of the Ojibways,  
From the land of the Dacotahs,  
From the mountains, moors and fenlands,  
Where the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,  
Feeds among the reeds and rushes:  
I repeat them, as I heard them,  
From the lips of Nawadaha,  
The musician, the sweet singer."

In his articles on this subject<sup>1</sup> Dr. Porter did not depreciate the talents of our great American poet. Speaking of "Hiawatha" he said: "Its descriptions of nature are wonderfully accurate, even when subjected to the severest scrutiny. The language and rhythm are faultless—raised to the highest pitch of elegance." But in the production of his "American edda" the poet had followed a model and his work was not "the long-expected epic." Of course, Dr. Porter's articles led to a controversy in the Boston newspapers, though the poet himself said nothing. The facts could not, however, successfully be assailed, and it was generally acknowledged that the critic had "made his point." To the last Dr. Porter was an enthusiastic admirer of "Hiawatha," though it was greatly due to his articles that the poem assumed its proper place in American literature.

Boys are boys all the world over; and though the students admired Dr. Porter he could not entirely escape annoyance. One of them, who was a great mimic, took down one of the professor's geological lectures in short-

<sup>1</sup> *National Intelligencer*, November 26, 1855, and subsequently in other periodicals.

hand, committed it to memory, and delivered it wherever he could find an opportunity. In it occurred a passage descriptive of fossil animals which was declaimed with great unction. Though we cannot vouch for its authenticity, we can at least recall the striking sentence:

“There were the gigantic pterodactyls, flying through the air, opening their tremendous mouths, and swallowing everything they came across; and the little bits of ferns, which are now a foot or eighteen inches in height, were then fifty or sixty feet high, as high as the tallest oak.”

A certain class objected greatly to the professor's habit of extending his recitations beyond the appointed hour; and when the clock struck twelve they became exceedingly restless. At such a time the professor reproved them, and said in his peculiar way: “You seem to be extremely hungry. Would it not be well to bring your lunch to college, so that you might lose no time?” This was enough for the boys; and next day when they were similarly reprovved, each one took a lunch-box from his pocket and began to eat. The professor looked at them for a moment in mingled wrath and sadness, and then walked out of the room without saying a word.

When Dr. Porter accepted a call to Lafayette College there was general regret.<sup>1</sup> It may be said, however, that he continued to cherish the warmest affection for the institution with which he had been so long and intimately connected and that he was pleased to be its guest on every important occasion. He continued his literary work, and it

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Porter preached a farewell sermon to the students of Franklin and Marshall College on the 23d of July, 1866, in the First Reformed Church of Lancaster. It was very tender and affecting and was highly appreciated by his audience.



is said that his published work on the subject of botany alone includes more than fifty titles. In recognition of his services to botanic science the genera *Porterella* in the Lobeliaceæ, and *Porteranthus* in the Rosaceæ bear his name, and no less than thirteen species or subspecies have been named in his honor. He also continued his purely literary work, taking special pleasure in metrical translations from the Latin or German. To him translation was a fine art, and he spared neither time nor toil in reproducing the minutest shades of meaning. His versions of the *Dies Iræ* and of Luther's "Ein feste Burg" have been greatly admired. Several of his hymns appear in Schaff's "Christ in Song," and a considerable number are enumerated in Julian's "Dictionary of Hymnology." His last published article, so far as we know, appeared in the *Reformed Church Review* for January, 1901. It was an essay on the English versions of the *Dies Iræ*, and was marked by all the excellencies which rendered his work delightful.

Dr. Porter was present at the laying of the corner-stone of our new Science Building, but even then he was growing feeble. On the 27th of April, 1901, while he was engaged in writing a letter to a friend, there came a stroke by which his long and useful life was ended.

Dr. Porter was a man of brilliant talents, and he used them for the benefit of young men. By the colleges which he served he should be remembered with sincere respect and affection.

## CHAPTER XXV.

### HARD TIMES.

POLITICAL EXCITEMENT—THE CIVIL WAR—BUILDINGS OCCUPIED AS  
HOSPITALS—MR. BUCHANAN'S RETIREMENT FROM THE PRESI-  
DENCY OF THE BOARD—ELECTION OF MR. CESSNA—TEM-  
PORARY SCHOLARSHIPS—TERCENTENARY YEAR—  
THE FISHERMAN—CHANGES IN THE  
FACULTY.

The College was, we think, unfortunate in coming to Lancaster at a time of great political excitement. As has already been intimated the prominence of Mr. Buchanan in the affairs of the institution naturally excited the prejudice of his opponents. In 1853 he secured the election to membership in the Board of the Rev. B. Keenan, a worthy Roman Catholic clergyman, believing that the College should represent all classes of the community. For this election there was a precedent in the fact that as early as 1787 the Reverend Mr. Cousie, pastor of St. Mary's, had been an active member of the Board of Franklin College. The later choice may, however, have been less prudent, for it occurred at the time of the so-called "Know Nothing" movement, which swept over the country like wild-fire and was characterized by intense opposition to foreigners and Roman Catholics. As soon as the gentleman who had been elected learned that the affair was likely to cause trouble he resigned his position; but this made little difference. The matter was taken up by political extremists and there were a number of virulent articles in the papers of the day.

The Civil War appears not to have affected the College

as greatly as might have been expected. Again and again the President reported that the number of students had not decreased. There were alumni of the College on both sides of the conflict; and among those who distinguished themselves we may mention General B. Frank Fisher, chief signal officer of the army of the Potomac, and General H. Kyd Douglas, the intimate friend and secretary of Stonewall Jackson. The students, however, for a long time continued to attend to their duties, unmoved by the excitement of the times. Curious as it may appear, the number of students gradually increased, and in 1862 twenty-eight students were graduated. This was a fine showing, considering the fact that many other institutions were actually closed. It is an interesting fact that several students from Virginia made their way across the line, in order that they might not lose their place in College.

It was not until the government ordered a draft that the college began to break up. Students preferred to volunteer, rather than to wait until an unlucky number should compel them to take their place in the ranks with strangers. It is related of a student, who has since become distinguished, that he preferred to enter the navy, and was appointed an ensign. He was ordered to report for service on a gunboat on the Mississippi. It so happened that on the day when he reported all the superior officers were either disabled or temporarily called away, and he was compelled to take command of the vessel. He was, however, unwilling to confess his incapacity, and studied the manual of arms by sections. Having drilled the men for some time he retired behind a pile of cotton bales and studied a section, leaving the non-commissioned officers to examine arms and accoutrements. In this way he got

through his work, without any one discovering that he was a "tender-foot." Next day the superior officers were in their places, and he was relieved from his responsibility.

For two years, in 1863 and 1864, the college was closed several weeks before the end of the term; but Commencement was always held at the appointed time. In 1863—just before the battle of Gettysburg—there was great excitement, and the dismissal of the students became a necessity. Detachments of the Southern army had reached the Susquehanna and no one could tell how soon they might enter Lancaster. Long lines of refugees passed through the city, leading horses which they sought to save from the invaders. Of course, under such circumstances, study was impossible, and the students had actually returned to their homes before the battle of Gettysburg was fought.

After the battle the government seized the buildings of the College, and the halls of the societies were occupied as hospitals for the wounded. For several months the halls were thus occupied, and the buildings were considerably damaged; but the societies never received any compensation for their losses. The occupation was, however, chiefly during the summer vacation; and in the autumn the College opened pretty much as usual, though with a reduced number of students.

After the conclusion of his presidential term Mr. Buchanan lived at Wheatland in strict retirement. He continued to take an interest in the affairs of the College; and we have seen a letter, written in 1864, in which he recommended the institution in the warmest terms. In a community which had been overwhelmingly opposed to his presidential policy his position was unpleasant; and there were friends of the College who did not hesitate to suggest







*John Gessner*

that, on account of his personal unpopularity, he ought to retire from the presidency of the Board. The fact came to Mr. Buchanan's knowledge, and at several successive annual meetings he tendered his resignation; but at the request of the Board it was regularly withdrawn. The agitation, however, continued, and when, in 1865, he again asked to be relieved his resignation was, perhaps unexpectedly, accepted. The following resolution was then adopted:

*“Resolved, That we receive with regret the renewed request of the venerable President of this Board to be released from the position he has so long and acceptably filled since the foundation of our Institution in its consolidated form; but as this request has been reiterated for a number of successive years, and as advancing age has a claim to release from such more public duties, we hereby respectfully accept the resignation of the Hon. James Buchanan with thanks for his past services, and the hope that he may be long spared to favor this Board, as one of its members, with his presence, counsels and sympathy.”*

On the following day, July 25, 1865, the Board elected as its president the Honorable John Cessna, of Bedford.

We have no record of Mr. Buchanan's attendance at any subsequent meetings of the Board. His health rapidly declined, and he died at Wheatland, June 1, 1868.

That the College was slow in gaining friends is sufficiently evident. Its chief trouble was, however, financial, and there are probably few persons now living who fully appreciate the straits to which it was reduced. The endowment was at best utterly insufficient; but there had also been unfortunate investments, and some money was lost by the failure of a local bank. In 1861 the treasurer re-

ported that he was unable to collect funds on account of the state of the country. In that year the College owed between three and four thousand dollars to five professors, and the Board agreed to allow interest on unpaid salaries. In a recent article Dr. Gerhart says:<sup>1</sup>

“That was an epoch of suspense and doubt. The college was a stranger in the city and county. It had no standing, because it had been known chiefly through the men who did not come. For the same reason it had no hopeful outlook. For some eight or ten years the faculty had to work against the tide. Only by the slow process of persevering toil did Franklin and Marshall gain recognition and win confidence. No one conversant only with the institutions as they now crown the West End can form any just conception of the dark clouds that hung over the faithful men that toiled here on small salaries fifty years ago.”

The responsibility which rested upon Dr. Gerhart was very great; and we can well believe him when he tells us in the same connection, that when he accepted the office of president he did not fully appreciate the consequences of the step which he was taking. He proved a very successful teacher; but during most of his time he was occupied in providing for the financial needs of the institution. From one congregation to another he traveled, enduring privations of which at the present time we can hardly form a proper conception; for in those days there were few railroads, and in winter the roads were often almost impassable. He preached many sermons, and delivered innumerable addresses; but though the people heard him gladly they had not been trained to liberal giving, and the amount of their gifts sometimes seemed hardly to warrant the labor

<sup>1</sup> *Reformed Church Messenger*, January 15, 1903.

and expense that were required for their collection. That Dr. Gerhart succeeded, under such circumstances, in raising considerable sums of money is a sufficient proof of his energy and perseverance. In 1858 five thousand dollars were collected among the close friends of the college for the relief of pressing necessities.<sup>1</sup> At the same time the Board ordered the sale of temporary scholarships, by which on the payment of fifty dollars the holder was entitled to designate a student for free tuition during the four years of his college course. More than five hundred temporary scholarships were sold. A part of this work was personally performed by Dr. Gerhart; though it was continued by Mr. John Heilman and other. Mr. Heilman was peculiarly successful, for he thoroughly knew the people among whom he labored and found no difficulty in gaining their confidence. He was for many years one of the most energetic and active members of the Board of Trustees.

As has already been intimated Dr. Gerhart collected between four and five thousand dollars for the relief of the literary societies. This was, perhaps the most difficult part of his financial work.

In 1863—which is known as the Tercentenary Year—there were “streaks of daylight.” Mainly at the suggestion and through the influence of the Reverend Dr. Henry Harbaugh the Reformed Church resolved to celebrate the three-hundredth anniversary of the publication

<sup>1</sup> In 1859 the Faculty proposed to publish a catalogue in the German language for circulation in the German counties of Pennsylvania. The manuscript was prepared and one sheet of the proposed publication was actually printed; but the printer had failed to present a proof for correction, and his work was found to be so miserable that it was finally rejected.

of the Heidelberg Catechism, its chief doctrinal symbol. The celebration was undertaken with great energy and enthusiasm, and continued throughout the year. It involved the holding of a Convention in Philadelphia on the 19th of January, 1863; the enrollment of all the members of the Church, and the reception of memorial free-will offerings from those who desired to present them; and the preparation and publication of several important volumes having special reference to the celebration.<sup>1</sup>

At the Convention in Philadelphia Dr. Gerhart met Henry Leonard, an elder of the Reformed church at Basil, Ohio, who had previously served as financial agent of the institutions at Tiffin. After a prolonged conference concerning the affairs of the college at Lancaster, Mr. Leonard agreed to collect the funds necessary for its relief, provided that Dr. Gerhart would properly introduce him in a field to which he was a stranger. It was to this introduction, and to the superintendence of the work by Dr. Gerhart, that his subsequent success was chiefly due.

Mr. Leonard was in some respects a remarkable man. He was of Swiss descent, and not only spoke English and German fluently but was thoroughly familiar with several Swiss dialects which he occasionally used to excellent purpose. In manner he was entirely unpretentious, and it took him but a few minutes to win the confidence of those

<sup>1</sup>The celebration was practically confined to what are now known as the three eastern synods. The enrollment, which was written on specially prepared blanks, was to have been bound in many volumes, as a memorial of the festival. It was deposited in the Publication House at Chambersburg, but was destroyed on the 30th of July, 1864, when the town was burned by a detachment of the Southern army. The loss of these documents is greatly to be regretted, as they would even now be of great historic importance, and their value would increase with each succeeding year.



whom he addressed. He was very devout, and there was in his nature an element of mysticism which led him to believe that he had been specially called to the work of saving the institutions of his Church from pressing financial embarrassment. He was generally known as "The Fisherman," because he was constantly engaged in "fishing" for benevolent contributions; and there was no title that could have pleased him better. On his portrait, which was widely circulated, he was represented carrying a valise, and this may have been intended to call attention to the fact that he was almost constantly traveling. It may be added that he was not destitute of literary ability, as his published "allegories" sufficiently indicate.

The success of Mr. Leonard in his agency was certainly phenomenal. In less than four months he had collected about \$25,000 in cash, mostly in small gifts, besides securing promises which were subsequently realized. Though he was prevented by circumstances from continuing in the work as long as he had originally intended, the aid which he brought to the college was most opportune. He always regarded the West as his peculiar field; but his brief service in the East deserves to be gratefully remembered.

The Tercentenary Year brought the College other gifts, mostly in the form of free-will offerings from members of the Reformed Church. At the end of the year the Treasurer reported that he had received additions to the endowment amounting to \$36,596.10. In the following year he was able to announce that the college was at last free from debt.

It was a time of intense activity and many interests of the Church were greatly advanced. In the literary work of the year the Faculty were actively engaged. A General

Catalogue of the College was published in 1863, and must have demanded considerable labor. Drs. E. V. Gerhart, J. W. Nevin, Theodore Appel, and Thomas C. Porter wrote or translated monographs for the "Tercentenary Monument"—a large volume composed of contributions from eminent men in Europe and America; and Dr. Gerhart was chairman of the committee which published the "Triglot" edition of the Heidelberg Catechism.

The financial situation having been somewhat relieved, the Board in 1864 proceeded to elect a professor of German. The position had been vacant since the removal of Professor Koeppen, though instruction had been given by Drs. Porter and Gerhart, and subsequently by Tutor John A. Van Haagen. There was, however, a general sentiment in favor of the election of a regular professor of German, and this led to the choice of Dr. F. W. Alexander Falk, a gentleman who was in every way worthy of the station. For the substance of the following biographical sketch we are indebted to his son-in-law, the Rev. J. W. Gilman, of Racine, Wisconsin:

Frederick William Alexander Falk was born in Landeshut, Silesia, November 10, 1805. His father was Superintendent in the Lutheran church at Landeshut. The celebrated Prussian minister of cultus of the same name was his nephew.

Dr. Falk was graduated at the University of Breslau; then went to Lauban as instructor in the Gymnasium there; afterwards he went to Ottolengendorf, a large estate which he had purchased, situated near Wartemberg, Silesia; and there carried on the business of the estate until he entered political life. In 1848 he was elected a member of the parliament at Frankfort on the Main, as

a representative of the liberals who were in favor of a united Germany. In 1849 he was again elected a member of the parliament at Berlin, representing the same party. During his prolonged absence his private affairs were mismanaged and he lost a great part of his estate. Dr. Falk and his wife and adopted daughter sailed for America in 1852. After staying a while in Washington, D. C., he purchased a small farm at Rockville, Montgomery county, Maryland. Here his first wife, Matilda Grueschki, died, and shortly afterwards he was called to the chair of Latin and Greek in St. James College, near Hagerstown, Maryland. He was ordered deacon in the Protestant Episcopal Church by Bishop Whittingham in 1858, and ordained priest in 1859. St. James College suffered so much during the Civil War that it was closed. Dr. Falk then went to Lancaster, Pa., where he was chosen professor of German Literature, also giving instruction in Political Economy. Here he was married to Mrs. Martha R. Charles. In 1867 he was called to Racine College, where for twenty years he held the position of Professor of Modern Languages. In the last year of his life he was made professor emeritus by the trustees of that institution. His published works are mainly a translation into German of the orations of Lysias and a few sermons. He died in Racine, November 15, 1887.

Besides the instances we have mentioned there were, during Dr. Gerhart's presidency, but few changes in the Faculty. In 1862 Dr. John W. Nevin was chosen professor of History, and his son, Robert J. Nevin, became tutor in Greek. Professor Porter, in 1866, accepted a call to a professorship in Lafayette College; but Professor William M. Nevin and the Rev. Theodore Appel continued to labor in their several departments.

After the tercentenary celebration there were several years of profound depression. As often happens after a special effort, there were few gifts, and the friends of the institution were discouraged. It seemed impossible to recover from the depression induced by the war, and the number of students actually decreased, so that in 1866 there were but six graduates. The latter fact especially attracted much attention, and the Alumni Association requested the Board to consider the state of the institution. In 1866 there were four meetings of the Board, and all kinds of suggestions were made, but most of them proved impracticable. There was, for instance, a project to erect a large building, so that the Faculty and students might live under one roof. It was held that in this way there might be a revival of the sociability which had been so marked a characteristic of Marshall College. The plan failed on account of the expense involved; and it is doubtful whether under any circumstances it could have been made a success.

All were apparently agreed that something must be done; but what it was to be no one seemed to know. It is surprising that the college was not broken up by the troubles of this eventful year.

We do not propose to describe this peculiar movement in all its varying phases. It may be said that it finally assumed a form very different from the one which its promoters had originally anticipated. It was resolved that the Faculty should be reorganized, and for this purpose all the professorships were declared vacant. Then the Board proceeded to hold an election to fill these vacancies.

Ever since the College came to Lancaster there were people who ascribed its misfortunes to the fact that on its



removal it had not been accompanied by the president of Marshall. Now that Dr. Nevin had made his home in the vicinity of Lancaster the number of these people had greatly increased. They believed that, if he could be persuaded to become even formally the head of the institution, its troubles would cease, and that his friends and admirers would immediately supply the deficiencies in its endowment. In such a case, it was said, a movement to raise two hundred thousand dollars would immediately be inaugurated with every prospect of success.

There was no personal opposition to President Gerhart. On the contrary his learning and ability were fully acknowledged, and it was hoped that he would continue his work in the College. It was, however, believed that he would cheerfully accept a subordinate position—for a time at least—to make room for the accomplishment of the proposed plan.

When the election for a new Faculty was held the Reverend John W. Nevin, D.D., was made President, Professor of the Philosophy of History and Æsthetics, and President of the Faculty. The Rev. E. V. Gerhart, D.D., was elected Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy and Vice-President of the Faculty. The other members of the former Faculty were reëlected without opposition. It is proper to state that Dr. Nevin had declined to allow his name to be used in connection with the presidency, and the election was held without his consent. With reference to Dr. Gerhart the following resolution was adopted:

*“Resolved, That in the selection now made for the first chair in the Faculty of the College, we most explicitly disclaim the slightest reflection upon the administrative capacity, the literary ability, or full qualifications in every*



respect, of the Reverend Dr. Gerhart, the present incumbent of the chair. On the contrary, we esteem it a privilege to bear testimony to the wisdom, fidelity and efficiency with which he has always discharged the governmental functions of his office; as well as to the learning and rare skill in imparting knowledge and educating young men which he has displayed with such entire satisfaction in his professorate, during his twelve years of service as President of the College, and as incumbent of the important chair of Mental and Moral Science."

For two years Dr. Gerhart served as Vice-President and Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy. He was then elected by synod to the professorship of Systematic and Practical Theology in the Theological Seminary at Mercersburg. In the autumn of 1868 he removed to that place, remaining there until the Seminary was removed to Lancaster.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### LABOR AND HOPE.

DR. NEVIN'S SECOND PRESIDENCY—CONTROVERSIES—NEW INSTITUTIONS—REMOVAL OF THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY TO LANCASTER—ENLARGEMENT OF THE FACULTY—HARBAUGH HALL—THE AUDENRIED BEQUEST—DR. NEVIN'S EDUCATIONAL THEORY—RETIREMENT—THE END OF A WELL-SPENT LIFE.

After earnest consideration Dr. Nevin accepted the call to the presidency of the College. He was no longer young, and it may well be supposed that the hopefulness of youth had passed away. He knew the difficulties of the work, and we believe that nothing but a stern sense of duty could have induced him to take up the burden which in former years had proved too heavy. His friends were, however, convinced that the prestige of his name would be of immense importance to the institution, and that the brightest hopes for its endowment could speedily be realized; and he felt that he dare not refuse his aid to the cause which he loved so well. In the following formal acceptance his views and anticipations are fully expressed:

“I acknowledge thankfully the honor which the Board has been pleased to confer upon me, in calling me a second time to the Presidency of Franklin and Marshall College; and as the reasons I had for declining the office some years ago no longer exist in the same force, while the circumstances in which the call is renewed are such as to give it new weight, I do not feel myself at liberty, however much I may still shrink from its responsible cares, to turn aside in the same absolute way. It is placed before me as a part of a general move-

ment, by which it is proposed to enlarge the operations of the Institution on a scale answerable to the wants of the present time; a movement which contemplates an addition of at least \$200,000 to its endowment as it now stands. It is said that the success of this movement depends on my being placed at the head of the College, and that without my name in such position it cannot be carried forward with effect. Too much account is made, I am afraid, in this view; but where, in a case like this, so much importance is attached to it by others, a sort of necessity is laid upon me not to withhold it from so worthy an enterprise. I therefore consent to coöperate with the friends of the Institution in carrying out the plan proposed for its enlargement, by accepting provisionally and conditionally the office of President to which I am now called. I say *provisionally* and *conditionally*; for I am not willing to be bound in the case, beyond what may be found to be the readiness of others also, to do what is needed for the accomplishment of the work in hand. I am willing to join with others in trying to give the College new life and force; but others must also join with me in the large and arduous task. Without this, my name and service will not avail to rescue the Institution from comparative insignificance. There must be strong and full coöperation from all sides in its favor, during the coming year; and on this, I wish it to be well understood, must hang in the end the question of my full, formal acceptance of the honorable situation now offered to me by the Board.

“J. W. NEVIN.

“LANCASTER, July 23, 1866.”

In response the Board expressed its great satisfaction and its cordial sympathy with Dr. Nevin in the sentiments expressed, pledging itself “in dependence upon Divine grace, to give him its earnest support in carrying out these views.”

The Board now proceeded to take further action by which it was hoped that its purposes would be accomplished. Its representatives were directed to present the cause of the College to the citizens of Lancaster city and county and to the Synod of the Reformed Church, at the same time making it plain that, in the judgment of the Board, not less than \$200,000 should be secured, not more than \$50,000 of which sum should be appropriated to the erection of additional buildings. The seats of all the members of the Board were declared vacant, and the Synod was requested to elect thirty persons to serve as a new Board in which the former denominational ratio should be preserved, upon condition that the necessary changes in the charter could be secured. The Synod accepted the proposal and declared it to be "its duty to raise at least \$100,000 towards the fuller endowment of the institution." It was further resolved that "in assuming this trust and providing for its present necessities, this Synod declares their purpose to hold it under such condition as will enable them to combine, if deemed advisable, with the present college organization, other educational interests of the German Reformed Church in a more comprehensive way. The consolidation contemplated in this resolution shall go into effect, so far as the removal of the Theological Seminary to Lancaster is concerned, as soon as \$50,000 shall be raised by the citizens of Lancaster city and county and the Trustees of Franklin and Marshall College, for the general interests of the united institutions." It was on the authority conveyed by this resolution that the Theological Seminary was finally removed to Lancaster.

Efforts were immediately made to secure the contemplated increase in the endowment. Dr. B. C. Wolff,

though advanced in years, immediately started out and obtained \$16,000 by subscription; but at this point he became seriously ill, and the work was consequently delayed. Aided by Dr. Theodore Appel he subsequently secured several thousand dollars, but the great work which he had contemplated remained unfinished. After his death, in 1870, the Rev. C. U. Heilman became the agent of the College, and was especially successful in inducing the alumni to subscribe to the endowment of a professorship of English Literature of which Dr. William M. Nevin became the first incumbent. Mr. Heilman obtained subscriptions amounting to about twenty-six thousand dollars; but truth compels us to say that, in consequence of prevailing controversies in the church, a considerable number of these subscriptions remained unpaid.

During the first year of Dr. Nevin's presidency the contributions received were much smaller than had been expected, and there was considerable discouragement. Dr. Nevin did not hesitate to say that he had been misled; and on this ground he refused to be formally inaugurated.

Looking back from our present standpoint we may easily comprehend the conditions that prevented immediate success. It was in the period of the Liturgical Controversy, and the Reformed Church was disturbed and divided as it had never been before. Indeed, there were plenty of people who did not hesitate to say that the Church was utterly ruined. Dr. Nevin was prominent in the controversy, and though he was sustained by the majority of his synod, he was strongly opposed by an influential minority. Capital is proverbially sensitive, and it is not surprising that large benefactions failed to be secured in the midst of such a storm.



Partly as a result of the prevailing controversy institutions were established which could not fail to be regarded as rivals of the parent college. Mercersburg College had been founded in 1865, mainly for the purpose of utilizing the buildings at Mercersburg; and under the presidency of Drs. Thomas G. Apple and E. E. Higbee it manifested extraordinary vigor. Between Mercersburg and Lancaster there was harmony of doctrine and sentiment; but as both to some extent occupied the same field the number of students at Lancaster was necessarily decreased. Ursinus College was founded in 1869, under the Presidency of the Rev. J. H. A. Bomberger, D.D., the first graduate of Marshall College, and naturally secured the patronage of those who stood with him in the liturgical controversy.

The most cheering event of this period was the removal of the Theological Seminary from Mercersburg to Lancaster. The Board of Trustees of the College donated to the Theological Seminary three and one-half acres at the southern end of the campus, of an estimated value of \$5,000, for the erection of necessary buildings. It was, however, chiefly due to the perseverance of the Rev. J. W. Steinmetz, D.D., now of Reading, that the financial conditions of the removal were met. He canvassed the Reformed churches and secured \$36,000 for this special purpose. In this way the means were provided for the erection of professors' houses, and considerable additions were made to the endowment of the institution.

Dr. E. V. Gerhart was the only professor who accompanied the Seminary on its removal to Lancaster, in September, 1871. Dr. Thomas G. Apple had, however, been elected Professor of Church History and Exegesis, and

took his place in the Faculty in November of the same year. The Theological Tutorship was vacant, but the position was filled by the appointment of the Rev. F. A. Gast who had previously taught in the college. Two years later, in 1873, this tutorship was changed to a professorship of Hebrew and Old Testament Theology, and Dr. Gast was chosen to fill the position.

The accommodations provided for the Seminary were at first entirely inadequate. Two rooms—one on the second story of the college building and the other on the third—were set aside for Seminary lectures; and in the room on the third story shelves were put up for the library. As there was not enough room for the books they were in many instances arranged in several rows on the same shelf, the most important being supposed to be placed in front. Of course, it was all very inconvenient; but in some respects the close relations of the two institutions were not unattractive. Professors and students were brought into close intimacy, and in some respects the early conditions at Mercersburg were revived. The “college community” was enlarged and the moral and religious tone of the College became more pronounced. A congregation—now known as St. Stephen’s—had been organized on Palm Sunday, 1865, but it was not until after the arrival of the Seminary that it became vigorous and prosperous. During the term of Dr. Nevin’s presidency the church was in his pastoral care; but since his retirement Dr. Gerhart has been the presiding pastor. At an expense of about \$5,000 the congregation, in 1873–74, enlarged the college chapel to its present dimensions.

During the presidency of Dr. Nevin there were a number of changes in the College Faculty. Dr. L. H. Steiner

had, in 1866, declined a call to the professorship of Natural Sciences; and in 1867 Dr. Budd was chosen.

Charles Henry Budd was born in Pemberton, N. J., December 8, 1822; and died in Philadelphia, October 22, 1880. He was a younger brother of Professor Samuel W. Budd, and studied at Marshall College, but did not graduate. He was graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and subsequently practiced his profession in Darby, Pennsylvania. During the Civil War he held important positions in connection with the hospitals of Philadelphia. From 1867 to 1871 he was a professor in Franklin and Marshall College, and from the latter date to his death he held a similar position in Girard College. Appleton's *Cyclopædia of American Biography* says concerning him: "He was an early member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, and an active participant in its work. Possessed of considerable mechanical skill he constructed scientific instruments, and also devised several processes that have since become of commercial value."

Early in Dr. Nevin's presidency a group of young professors appeared upon the scene. As recent graduates of the institution they were peculiarly familiar with its wants, and by their energy and enthusiasm added greatly to its effective force. In 1867, the year of his graduation, the Rev. John S. Stahr became Tutor in German and history, and in the following year was elected adjunct professor. In 1871 he became Professor of Natural Sciences and Chemistry—a position which he held until he was called to the presidency of the College. In 1868 the Rev. Daniel M. Wolf became an adjunct professor; and in 1871, when Dr. W. M. Nevin was transferred to the department of English Literature, he succeeded him as Professor of

Ancient Languages. In 1872 the Rev. Walter E. Krebs succeeded Dr. Theodore Appel in the department of Mathematics, and Dr. Appel was transferred to the chair of Physics and Astronomy.

The year 1869 was especially fruitful in plans for the enlargement of the college. A so-called "Dollar Plan" was proposed by which a contribution of one dollar was to be solicited from every member of the Reformed Church within the scope, or purview, of the institution; but it was soon found that this was not feasible. About five thousand dollars were contributed in this way and then the movement came to an end. Though there might have been a general response if an appeal could have been properly presented, the labor and expense was too great to render

*H Harbaugh*

it successful. It was, however, felt that something must be done to provide accommodations for students, for since two rooms had been assigned to the Theological Seminary the College Building was greatly crowded; and for some reason which we do not comprehend students found it difficult to secure lodging in the city. At first it was proposed to erect two dormitories; then it was resolved to build a chapel somewhere on the campus, and to divide the chapel connected with the College Building into rooms for students. Finally the Board determined to erect a large boarding-house on the college grounds and this plan was actually accomplished. At the Commencement of 1871 the corner-stone was laid, and the building was named "Harbaugh Hall" in honor of Dr. Henry Harbaugh, who



had first proposed its erection. It was a structure of considerable size, and cost about \$15,000. Its external appearance was, however, more satisfactory than its internal arrangements. Many of the rooms were uncomfortable, and the means of heating them in winter, though costing a great deal of money, were from the beginning deficient. The College undertook to furnish the building, and to engage a steward who was to conduct the refectory. The treasurer of the Faculty was directed to receive the money paid by students for board and room rent, and to pay the expenses of conducting the concern. A tutor was directed to take charge of the building and to preserve order.

Many earlier students retain pleasant recollections of Harbaugh Hall. Happy hours were spent within its walls, and friendships were formed which continued through life. There was plenty of fun, and nothing can now be more delightful than to recall recollections of innocent enjoyment. It will, however, be remembered that many students decidedly objected to the rule which required them to room there, and that, as soon as it was permitted, they hurried away to find another dwelling. To the Faculty the hall was a source of constant trouble, especially on account of the difficulty of securing and retaining efficient stewards; and as a financial investment it proved an utter failure. It was finally removed to furnish an acceptable site for the present Science Building.

When an institution or an individual begins to build, the end of the work can rarely be foretold. New wants appear, and what was intended to be a single house may become a cluster of buildings. It now became evident that the erection of an Academy Building could no longer be



deferred without serious loss to the College, and in 1872 the Board directed that the work should immediately be undertaken. A building was erected during the following year at a cost of about \$20,000, and the school was placed under the sole direction of Cyrus V. Mays, a graduate of the College of the class of '56. Professor Mays was successful in building up a prosperous school, but on account of failing health was compelled to withdraw at the close of its second year.

The erection of these buildings was no doubt necessary; but it became a serious drain on the resources of the institution. As no special fund had been provided for this purpose it became necessary to pay for them out of the treasury, and the endowment was correspondingly decreased. This was, of course, regarded as a temporary loan, but years passed before the amount which had been withdrawn could be formally replaced.

The earlier years of Dr. Nevin's presidency were not particularly eventful. Thoughtful students appreciated the privilege of receiving his instruction, and he is remembered with profound affection. Theological controversies, however, still continued, and it would be wrong to say that they did not, in certain directions, limit his influence. He was a powerful controversialist, and never suffered personal considerations to prevent him from taking the field in defence of what he conceived to be the truth.

Gradually the financial condition of the college improved, and a more comfortable feeling began to prevail. Gifts were received from friends who did not desire their names to be publicly announced, and we must even now respect their wishes. Mr. Jacob Bausman was, in 1867,

elected Treasurer of the Board, and the financial interests of the institution were conducted with care and fidelity. Since his death the same office has been worthily occupied by his son, J. W. B. Bausman, Esq.

The Audenried bequest, received in 1875, was the largest which had hitherto been obtained by the College from a single source. The testator consequently deserves a prominent place in the history of the institution, and it may be interesting to relate a few of the incidents of his somewhat remarkable career.

Lewis Audenried was born at Maiden Creek, Berks county, Pennsylvania, October 19, 1799. His father, George Audenried, was a native of Switzerland, and was a man of intelligence and influence. Lewis was his third son, and seems to have shown signs of talent at an early age, as it is evident that he enjoyed the advantages of a better education than was usual in those days. In 1819 he taught school in northern New York, thereby becoming familiar with the school-system which had been introduced into that state; and it was at his suggestion that his brother, William, then a member of the Legislature, introduced a bill from which the present school system of Pennsylvania is claimed to be derived. Having entered into business he began to deal extensively in coal and lumber. In 1829 he built a forge, but this enterprise proved unsuccessful and he became financially involved. Having subsequently recovered himself, he surprised his creditors by paying all his old indebtedness with interest in full.

It was not until he was forty-three years old that Mr. Audenried removed to Philadelphia, and embarked regularly in the coal trade. Here his operations gradually attained to great magnitude. He was among the first to

ship coal from Port Richmond, and his cars are said to have been the first to pass over the Central Railroad of New Jersey. At various times he was a partner in many firms, but the most important of these was the house of Lewis Audenried & Co., which had branches in many cities. In 1854 he became largely interested in the Honeybrook coal-lands, on which stands the town of Audenried which has been named in his honor. He was often in Europe and was as well known there in business circles as in his native land. He was never married.

In early youth Mr. Audenried had been admitted by confirmation to membership to the Reformed Church; but like many others he had suffered the cares of business to monopolize his attention to such a degree that he ceased to be a communicant member. For many years he was not connected with any congregation; but held pews in several churches, to whose support he also otherwise contributed.

In the concluding years of Mr. Audenried's life the impressions of early days began to revive, and he became peculiarly susceptible to religious instruction. Having made the acquaintance of the Rev. J. H. Dubbs, pastor of Christ Reformed Church, there grew up between them a friendship that was intimate and sincere. On the first day of October, 1872, he was admitted to membership in Christ church by renewed profession. On this occasion he said with tears: "It is an unspeakable comfort to me that I have taken this step—I wish I had taken it long ago."

After this event Mr. Audenried became more decidedly interested in the church and its institutions. His later days were earnest and devout. His death occurred September 17, 1873.

The fact that Mr. Audenried had been in his youth re-

ceived into the Reformed Church was well known, and it had long been hoped that he would leave a portion of his great wealth to support its institutions. As early as 1867 the Rev. Dr. B. C. Wolff and Dr. William Mayburry—the latter his nephew by marriage—had ventured to present the claims of the college, and a suggestion that he should endow a professorship had been favorably received. It was, however, feared that in subsequent years the mind of Mr. Audenried had been unfavorably influenced by prevailing theological discussions, and that the hope of the friends of the college would fail to be realized. As he was regarded as peculiarly unapproachable, no one inquired concerning his purpose; and it was, therefore, somewhat of a surprise when, after his death, it appeared that he had bequeathed the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars for the endowment of a professorship in Franklin and Marshall College. As a codicil to the will the following paragraph also appeared:

“As I have provided in my said will for the endowment of the Audenried Professorship of History and Archæology in Franklin and Marshall College at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, I desire and request that the Reverend Joseph Henry Dubbs, now Pastor of Christ Reformed Church on Green street (near 16th) Philadelphia, shall if he be living when said endowment is paid over, be appointed to said Professorship, that he shall occupy the chair thereof so long as he may desire and be able to fulfill its duties.”<sup>1</sup>

In this connection it may be enough to add that Mr. Dubbs was elected Audenried Professor on February 16,

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Audenried also bequeathed five thousand dollars to Christ Reformed Church, Philadelphia, and an equal amount to Bethany Orphans' Home, at Womelsdorf, besides leaving considerable legacies to other churches and benevolent institutions.



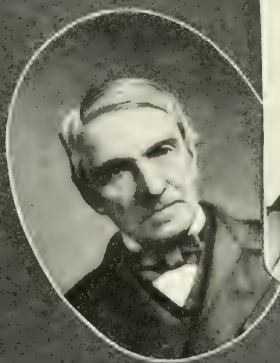
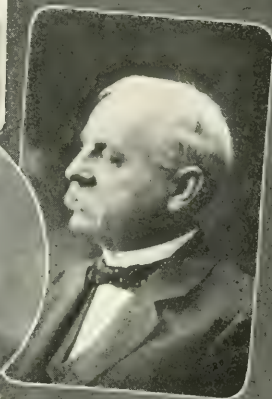
1875. Under the circumstances he felt it to be his duty to accept the call, and entered upon his duties on the first of July of the same year.

The Reverend Nathan C. Schaeffer was, on the 25th of July, 1875, elected Professor of Ancient Languages. He succeeded Professor D. M. Wolf, whose health had led him to retire. Dr. Schaeffer remained connected with the college for two years, and then accepted the presidency of the Keystone State Normal School. He has been for ten years Superintendent of Public Instruction in the State of Pennsylvania.

During the period of Dr. Nevin's presidency the number of students did not greatly increase. This fact may have been partly due to the educational policy which then prevailed. The college was proud of its *curriculum*, and there was a general dread of "letting down the bars." In 1868 Dr. Nevin wrote a prospectus which appeared in successive catalogues for ten years, at least, containing a defense of what he regarded as the best form of liberal culture. Times have changed, and the scope of all literary institutions has been greatly extended; but it may be interesting to reproduce the argument, if only to show what can be said in favor of a system to which for a long time the college held with exceptional tenacity. The following is the most important section in the annual prospectus; and, whatever we may think of the contents, its vigor and candor are unmistakable:

"CHARACTER AND DESIGN.—The College was created originally in the service of classical and liberal learning; and it aims to be true still to this object. A wide popular demand, it is known, prevails at this time for education in more practical forms; and it has become the fashion largely,





ADOLPHUS L. KOEPPEN.

NATHAN C. SCHAEFFER.

WILLIAM MANN IRVINE.  
JOHN L. ATLEE.

WALTER E. KREBS.  
THEODORE APPEL.  
F. W. ALEXANDER FALK.

MARTIN L. HERR.  
DANIEL M. WOLF.

FORMER PROFESSORS, FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE.



of late, to shape collegiate training in conformity with it, by combining, in various ways, what are termed scientific, professional or technic studies with liberal studies properly so called. Such business discipline is, of course, highly important in its place; and it is well, perhaps, that different Colleges, which have it in their power to do so, are testing the question how far it can be successfully joined with culture in the other view. But no experiment of this sort is felt to be the mission of Franklin and Marshall College; and in no such character, therefore, does it bespeak public attention or favor.

“The ambition of the institution is to be a College, in the old American sense of the term. What that means is shown by its course of studies. This is one and uniform; and it has for its ruling object throughout mental culture for its own sake.

“There are therefore no optional courses in Franklin and Marshall College, in which the learner is allowed to choose for himself what he shall learn. It receives no *irregular* students, as they are called, and has no provisional or mixed classes.

“This may be with one class of persons an objection to the institution. But there is a different class with whom it cannot fail to be a recommendation. If there be a call for mere business education on the part of many, there is still a demand, also, for true liberal education on the part of others; and for these, at least, there must be felt to be always a special advantage in a collegiate system devoted expressly and exclusively to this object.

“A liberal education, in its very nature, regards not primarily any ends of business or professional work. It is not without reference to these, indeed, as an ulterior object, since all true human culture must show itself to be at last practical in some way; but what it aims at immediately, and for the time being exclusively, is the cultivation of the mind for its own sake. All may easily see that this is something

very different from forming the mind to be a fit instrument simply for securing other interests, which lie outside of itself, and are not at once, therefore, of its own constitution. Training for such outward utilitarian purposes (whether in lower or higher forms) involves, of course, mental culture—a discipline, as far as it goes, of the student's capacities and powers. But it is not, as such, liberal or *free* training; because the mind is held bound in it always as means to an outward end. Only where education has its end in itself can it be truly of this high character. That is just what the term *liberal* properly here means.

“Such education in the end is eminently practical. It is not at once, in and of itself, a fund of professional knowledge, or an apparatus of technic skill for the use of industry and trade. But what is far better, it is the culture of human personality itself, on the perfection of which, in its own wholeness, first of all, must ever depend at last the successful application of its powers instrumentally to all purposes beyond itself. There is no work or walk in life for which such free *human* culture is not of the very highest practical account.

“Where this sort of education is to be secured it is easy to see that it must go before other forms of training in the order of time, and not follow after them, nor yet be mixed up with them in the same course. Hence the old idea of the American College, according to which a discipline of four years (beyond the academy or high-school) was considered not too much to devote to the object of general personal culture, as a preparation simply for entering on professional or business studies, strictly so called. We hear much now of a self-styled ‘New Education,’ which is supposed to be in the way of changing all that. But so far as its main principle is concerned the old theory here was unquestionably right; and no change can be made for the better that pretends to set it wholly aside.

“It will be generally felt too by those who understand and value the object of the old college education, that it cannot well be joined successfully with other schemes of study in the same institution. Where different courses are thus combined—one classical and humane in the old college form, and another, or perhaps two or three others, of the new polytechnic scientific sort—it is hardly possible that the classical course should be carried forward with proper spirit and effect. The department devoted to it will be found, in the midst of such uncongenial surroundings, working against wind and tide. Students themselves will have but small faith, and therefore no animation, in their studies. And so, as the result of all, it is likely to be only an apology for a liberal education at best that is reached in this way—even if this itself should not break down ingloriously in the middle of the college course.

“A liberal education, it is plain, can be prosecuted with *full* advantage only where it is the sole reigning object and care of the institution in which it is carried forward.

“Such is the one single purpose of Franklin and Marshall College. The institution asks no patronage in any other character. It does not invite students promiscuously to its halls; but only students who desire a full classical education for its own sake. This may make its classes smaller than they might be otherwise. But for the end here in view the importance of the institution does not depend on the size of its classes. It depends altogether on the fidelity with which this end is itself regarded and pursued.”

For many years Dr. Nevin cherished the purpose of securing a sufficient endowment to justify the College in giving free tuition to all its students. Of course, it was never proposed to abolish the minor fees which are necessarily collected for contingent purposes. At first free



tuition was offered to students residing in Lancaster, on condition that a certain sum was contributed by the city and county. It was in pursuance of this plan that Mr. Diodorus Diffenbacher—then a student in the Theological Seminary—collected about \$8,000 from citizens of Lancaster. Subsequently it was proposed, on similar conditions, to extend the same privileges to counties and school districts; but it was not until a later period that the College could be declared free.

During the later years of his presidency Dr. Nevin was cheered by the prospect of securing for the College an important addition to its resources. The Wilhelm family, of Somerset county, had declared its intention of leaving to the institutions at Lancaster a very considerable estate. The gift was slow in coming; but the heart of the aged president was encouraged by anticipation. It was not, however, until after he had retired that this matter became generally known, and we, therefore, defer its consideration to a subsequent chapter.

Feeling the burden of advancing years President Nevin, in 1876, tendered his resignation, and after due consideration it was reluctantly accepted. In subsequent years he continued to reside at Caenarvon Place, near Lancaster, devoting much of his time to the contemplation of the mysteries of the world to come. He continued to write for the press, and it was evident that his pen had not lost its vigor. At times he preached in the College Chapel; and, to those who knew and loved him, his discourses seemed like messages from another world. When he grew feeble friends gathered more frequently at his home; and to them he addressed words which, if they could have been preserved, might have exerted a powerful influence on sub-

sequent generations. It was a grand and glorious privilege to receive instruction from his venerable lips.

President John Williamson Nevin died June 6, 1886, and was buried at Woodward Hill Cemetery. In the College Chapel there is a window which is dedicated to his memory. It represents the apostle John with an eagle at his side. Close at hand is a beautiful lectern that bears the name of his faithful wife.

We feel unable to do justice to the person and work of Dr. Nevin. In the Church and the institutions which he served his memory is green. "Of his name and fame future ages will not be ignorant."

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### GRADUAL PROGRESS.

PRESIDENT THOMAS G. APPLE—THE WILHELM ESTATE—CHARLES SANTEE—THE CENTENNIAL—DR. APPLE'S RETIREMENT.

On the resignation of Dr. John W. Nevin the College was left for some time without a president. For many years it had received the service of a distinguished man at a salary that was hardly more than nominal; and the Board was now confronted by a two-fold difficulty. It was, of course, not easy to find a man who was in all respects suited to the position; but even if they had succeeded in finding him, there were no means at hand to pay a respectable salary. The Board, therefore, resolved to defer the election of a president for one year, in the meantime requesting Professor William M. Nevin to occupy *ad interim* the position which had so long and ably been filled by his brother. That he performed this duty creditably is well known. It was a quiet year and the College was prosperous.

On the 27th of June, 1877, the Board elected the Reverend Thomas Gilmore Apple, D.D., President of Franklin and Marshall College, "it being understood that he be permitted to retain his position in the Theological Seminary."

In taking this action the Board followed the precedent which had been established in Mercersburg in the election of Drs. Rauch and Nevin, both of whom had been professors in the Theological Seminary. The authorities of the Seminary interposed no objections, and Dr. Apple en-

tered upon the duties of his presidency in the autumn of the year of his election.

Thomas Gilmore Apple was born in Easton, Pa., November 14, 1829. "He came from German, Irish and English ancestry, and possessed some of the best elements of these three different nationalities."<sup>1</sup> When he was eleven years old he removed with his parents to Saegertown, Crawford county, Pennsylvania; but returned to Easton in 1845 to attend the classical school of the Rev. Dr. John Vanderveer, who prepared him for college. Entering the Sophomore class in Marshall College in the spring of 1848 he was graduated with honor in 1850. In the next year he was married to Miss Emma M. Miller, of Easton, and in 1852 took charge of the school of Dr. Vanderveer who withdrew to place it in his care. He studied theology privately and was in the same year ordained a minister of the Reformed Church. Having successively served as pastor at Riegelsville, Greensburg and Irwin, Mechanicsburg and Greencastle, he was in 1865 appointed president of Mercersburg College. As has already been stated he was in 1871 called to the professorship of Church History and Exegesis in the Theological Seminary at Lancaster. When he was invited to the presidency of the College the arrangement was supposed to be merely temporary, but it was actually continued for twelve years. That he was able, for so long a time, acceptably to hold two positions demanding extraordinary ability, is a sufficient indication of his physical and mental strength.

Dr. Apple was in his favorite departments of study an excellent teacher. The peculiar philosophy of the institutions he expounded with ability and enthusiasm. As a

<sup>1</sup>"Obituary Record," Vol. I., p. 281.

disciplinarian he possessed the unusual gift of governing most when least he seemed to govern. When dissensions occurred between individual students he manifested marvellous power in leading them by a few questions to mutual confessions and apologies. In manner he was dignified and courteous, and from the students he commanded universal respect.

In the affairs of the religious denomination with which he was connected Dr. Apple was profoundly interested. He was president of the Eastern Synod in 1868 and of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in 1893. He was a member of the committee that framed the Order of Worship, and was also a member of the so-called Peace Commission. Twice he visited Europe as a delegate to meetings of the Alliance of Reformed churches, held in Belfast and London, and in the meeting of the same body in Toronto, Canada, he took a prominent part. There have been few men who were better qualified to preside over a deliberative body.

For some years Dr. Apple was the editor of the *Reformed Church Review*, and he also wrote extensively for other religious periodicals. From 1879 until his death he was the president of the Cliosophic Society—generally called “The Clio”—a literary and social organization which has exerted an important influence in bringing the city and the College into more intimate relations.

From all this it may be concluded that Dr. Apple was a man of unusual power. Though his college presidency necessarily occupied but half of his time, he enjoyed the unique distinction of accomplishing more than his friends had anticipated. He will always hold a prominent place in the history of Franklin and Marshall College. During





Thos. G Apple



Dr. Apple's presidency there were several changes in the Faculty. In 1877 the Reverend Dr. Theodore Appel and the Reverend Walter E. Krebs withdrew, and in the same year Dr. John B. Kieffer succeeded Dr. Schaeffer as Professor of Ancient Languages, and Frederick K. Smyth became Professor of Mathematics. Professor Smyth, who was a graduate of Bowdoin College, held his professorship until 1880, when he resigned, subsequently removing to California. In the same year he was succeeded by Dr. Jefferson E. Kershner, who had previously been a Tutor in Mathematics. The Reverend George F. Mull, who had been Rector of the Academy from 1883 to '85, became in 1886 Adjunct Professor of English Literature and assistant in Latin; and in 1888 the Reverend Richard C. Schiedt was appointed Adjunct Professor in Natural Sciences and the German Language. In 1892 Professors Mull and Schiedt were both promoted to full professorships.

In 1877 the death of Mr. Peter Wilhelm, of Somerset county, directed renewed attention to a subject to which we have referred in a previous chapter. For many years the matter of the "Wilhelm Estate" has occupied so prominent a place in the proceedings of the Board of Trustees that it seems necessary to give some account of the manner in which it came into the possession of the College. To relate all its particulars is, however, by no means an easy undertaking; and we must crave indulgence if we fail to do full justice to all the elements that enter into this somewhat remarkable story.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For our facts we are chiefly indebted to "The Life and Work of John Williamson Nevin," by Theodore Appel, D.D.; "History of the Wilhelm Legacy," by A. B. Koplin, D.D., an article in *The College Student* for March, 1901; and to the Proceedings of the Board of Trustees.

When Dr. Koplin was called, in 1858, to a pastorate in Somerset county there lived, in the vicinity of Elk Lick, a family named Wilhelm. At that time its surviving members were three brothers and a sister, all of whom were advanced in years and had remained unmarried. Two deceased sisters had been married and had left descendants. According to the standards of the time and place they were accounted wealthy, though they lived in the most unpretentious manner. Their integrity was undoubted, and to their tenants and servants they were kind and liberal. Though they understood English they preferred to speak Pennsylvania-German, and to address them in this dialect was the most certain way of gaining their confidence.

The Wilhelms were of Reformed and Lutheran descent, but were not church members. Soon after Dr. Koplin's arrival in the neighborhood the eldest brother, Abraham, was taken with fatal illness, and expressed an earnest desire to be admitted to church membership, and having professed his faith he received the Lord's Supper. Impressed by this edifying example the surviving members of the family joined the pastor's catechetical class and were in due time received into the church.

When truly honest men take such a step they do not shrink from the responsibilities which it involves. In this instance there was complete consecration, and from the beginning they manifested an inclination to make all possible sacrifices. At their request a church was organized in the immediate vicinity of their home, and Benjamin and Peter Wilhelm became the first elder and deacon. In the performance of their duties these aged men explored the surrounding region, and urged the people to attend

religious instruction and service. In 1863 it was resolved to erect a new church—to be known as St. Paul's—but in that year the pastor was called to another field of usefulness and the building was postponed. Pastor Koplin was, however, in 1867 persuaded to return to his former field and now there was no more delay. A church was built which cost \$14,000 and of this amount the Wilhelm's contributed more than \$11,000. They also presented to the congregation a fine organ which, with their churchly feelings, they regarded as a matter of the highest importance. To subjects of general benevolence they showed themselves unusually liberal. When "The Fisherman" (Mr. Leonard) presented the cause of Heidelberg College, at Tiffin, Ohio, the Wilhelms presented him a contribution of three hundred dollars in gold. It was at one time proposed to establish an important literary institution in the special interest of the Reformed Church in western Pennsylvania, and Westmoreland College, at Mount Pleasant, was founded with this purpose. On this occasion the Wilhelms promised to leave a bequest of \$25,000 for the endowment of the presidency; but as the school was closed in about five years for want of sufficient support this promise was necessarily withdrawn.

When Abraham Wilhelm died he left his undivided interest in the estate to his brothers, Benjamin and Peter. Even at this early day there seems to have been an understanding that the property should be kept intact as long as either of the brothers survived and then transferred to some promising charitable interest.

As this purpose became evident many efforts were made to induce the brothers to leave their property to local interests, but they were firm in their purpose to limit their



benefactions to the institutions of their church. The Honorable W. J. Baer was their legal adviser and intimate friend; and they also had the fullest confidence in their pastor, the Reverend A. B. Koplin; but they were slow to speak, and in many respects kept their own counsel. President Nevin wrote to Messrs. Baer and Koplin, soliciting their influence in behalf of the institutions at Lancaster, and it was fully and cheerfully granted. At the laying of the corner-stone of St. Paul's church Dr. Theodore Appel preached, and he received from the Wilhelm brothers encouraging assurances. When the church was consecrated Dr. Nevin preached, and when he left they told him that they would leave the greater part of their estate for the endowment of the institutions at Lancaster.

On August 11, 1873, Benjamin Wilhelm conveyed his undivided interest in the estate to his brother Peter, and died on the 17th of September following. Three months later Dr. Koplin, whose health had begun to fail, removed to a charge which required less exposure, and the Reverend C. U. Heilman became his successor. Mr. Heilman, it will be remembered, had previously been an agent of the College, and his influence was altogether favorable. To him the Wilhelms immediately gave their confidence and he was subsequently nominated one of the executors of the estate.

Arrangements were now made to carry out the original purpose of the family. On May 16, 1876, the surviving sister, Anna Maria (generally known as "Polly") conveyed her undivided share of the property to her brother Peter. In consequence of certain local affairs in which Mr. Wilhelm was interested the making of a will was, however, delayed until February 20, 1878, when he simul-

taneously signed his will and executed a deed of trust by which the greater part of his estate was left to Franklin and Marshall College and to the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church at Lancaster "in the proportion of two-thirds part thereof to the former and one-third to the latter." He provided for the comfortable maintenance of his sister, and left considerable bequests to some of his heirs at law, though some of these were intentionally excluded. He also left minor bequests to a number of religious and charitable institutions.

When Mr. Wilhelm executed his will no one supposed that the end of his life was near at hand; but he died March 13, 1878, less than one calendar month after the document was signed. According to the law of Pennsylvania this fact invalidated the bequest, and on the last day of his life Mr. Wilhelm was much disquieted by this anticipation. He said: "*Gott weiss wohl ich habe es gut gemeint.*"

For some time after Mr. Wilhelm's death it was feared that the bequests were lost. The intentions of the Wilhelm family were, however, so well known and had been so frequently expressed that the best friends of the college were not without hope. On the advice of Mr. George F. Baer a bill in equity was filed in the court of Somerset county, in the names of Charles Santee, Jeremiah J. Folk, Herman L. Baer, C. U. Heilman and John A. Kimmel, Trustees, in behalf of Franklin and Marshall College and the Theological Seminary. The successive stages in the succeeding negotiations we have not space to describe; but a compromise with the heirs at law was finally effected. There were upwards of thirty heirs and with these individual settlements were made. In this work the Hon-

orable John Cessna performed excellent service, and many other friends of the College labored with untiring energy.

The value of the estate which passed into the possession of the institutions at Lancaster it is not easy to determine. In a report made to the Board of Trustees in 1880 Mr. Cessna says: "No one places the estimate of its value at less than sixty thousand dollars; others fix it at seventy-five thousand; and some make it one hundred thousand dollars." A mining engineer who examined the land at the request of the Board presented a much higher estimate; but his figures were derived from supposed mineral deposits from which nothing has hitherto been realized.

The Wilhelm estate consisted of more than two thousand acres of land, which was probably at that time more valuable for agricultural purposes than it would prove at present. As secured by the institutions it was subject to the payment of several special legacies, besides the amount paid by way of compromise to the heirs at law. Dr. Stahr informs us that the amount paid out until 1889, including accumulated interest, was \$40,793.92. All this had been repaid to the institutions from the proceeds of land sold; and in addition the College had received \$16,469 and the Theological Seminary \$9,234.32. Since that time more land has been sold, and the estate has been a source of income. The Board, however, has been careful to sell only surface rights, in each instance retaining the mineral rights for the benefit of the institutions. That there is much coal on the land has never been doubted, and there is little doubt that it will finally provide a considerable source of income. The surface rights of one of the farms and of part of another still remain unsold, so that, in

the judgment of the president, we may still at least expect a sum sufficiently large to endow a professorship.

Though the Wilhelm estate did not enrich the institution to the extent which its friends expected, it was at the time peculiarly valuable. To the general interests of the College it gave an impetus which was greatly felt in succeeding years. In the institutions which it benefited the generosity of the Wilhelm family should always be gratefully remembered.

The Daniel Scholl Observatory was founded by Mrs. J. M. Hood, of Frederick, Maryland, by a special contribution of ten thousand dollars. The structure was named in memory of the deceased father of the generous donor. Mrs. Hood also provided an endowment of the Observatory, and a number of friends of the College contributed to its equipment. The clock is a memorial to Nevin A. Swander, a deceased member of the class of 1884, and is the gift of his parents. The eleven-inch Clark-Repsold Equatorial is a superior instrument, and under the care of Dr. J. E. Kershner every facility is at hand for first-class astronomical work. The Observatory was dedicated, June 16, 1886, on which occasion an appropriate address was delivered by Professor C. A. Young, of Princeton. For the success which attended this enterprise the institution owes much to the coöperation of the Rev. E. R. Eschbach, D.D., of Frederick, Md.

There were at this time many indications of progress. The Garber Herbarium was secured for the College, and the Fahnestock, Fries and Heisler cabinet of minerals was also added to its collections. J. W. Wetzel, Esq., of Carlisle, and Dr. R. K. Buehrle, of Lancaster, endowed prizes which have done much to stimulate the energy of students.



Under the care of John Heilman, John C. Hager and others the campus became beautiful. There were few large gifts, but on several occasions the members of the Board of Trustees quietly furnished needed relief. Though we cannot venture to enter into particulars it is no more than simple justice to refer to the benevolence of Mr. Charles Santee, of Philadelphia. In 1886 he contributed ten thousand dollars to the endowment of the institution, but this by no means indicates the extent of his benefactions. Year after year he brought his gifts, and these were so silently presented that their extent was hardly known. Knowing the purity of his benevolence and the modesty of his disposition we feel even now a certain hesitation in referring to his numerous gifts.

Charles Santee was a native of Northampton county, and became in early life a member of the Reformed Church to which he always remained sincerely attached. When in his youth he removed to Philadelphia he brought with him the principles of probity and rectitude which he had acquired at home, and in his long and active career he never departed from them. Having entered into business he studied the subject with all the powers of an acute mind, and it was to his skill in finance that the successful establishment of the great wholesale house of James, Kent, Santee & Co. was generally ascribed. At a later period many other important interests were confided to his care; and it need not be said that those who trusted in his judgment were not disappointed. His charities were numerous and liberal; and there are many churches and benevolent institutions which owe much of their present prosperity to his beneficence. "Santee Hall"—the beautiful chapel of the Theological Seminary—was one of his latest gifts.



Mr. Santee was more than a liberal giver; he was a prudent counsellor. For more than forty years he was a member of the Board of Trustees; and as a member of the Committee on Finance his advice was of great value. When he went to his reward in April, 1898, his departure left a vacancy which it has been found difficult to fill.

For more than twenty years Mr. George Gelbach, also of Philadelphia, was Mr. Santee's companion in attending the meetings of the Board. He was also a generous benefactor of the institution; and after his death, which occurred in 1886, a memorial window was very appropriately placed in the college chapel.

As the year 1887 approached there was a general desire that the Centennial anniversary of the founding of Franklin College should be appropriately observed. It was also suggested that the Semi-centennial of Marshall College might be celebrated at the same time, though absolute historical accuracy would have demanded a somewhat earlier celebration. For the celebration itself the Alumni Association deserves the chief credit, though it was cheerfully aided by the Board of Trustees and all the friends of the institution.

The Centennial was in every respect successful. It was celebrated in connection with the Commencement of 1887, and began with the Baccalaureate Sermon on Sunday, June 12. Dr. Thomas G. Apple preached an excellent discourse on the words: "Without me ye can do nothing." John 15, 5. On Monday and Tuesday there were the usual college exercises; but on Tuesday evening a mass meeting was held in the Court House. At this meeting the Honorable John W. Killinger presided, and an address

was delivered by Dr. William Pepper, LL.D.,<sup>1</sup> Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, on "Benjamin Franklin"; and another by the Honorable R. W. Hughes, of Virginia, on the "Life and Character of John Marshall." After these addresses Governor Beaver made an impromptu speech which was highly appreciated.

Next day there was a great assembly on the College Campus. A large tent had been put up, and it was said by the papers of the day that fifteen hundred people partook of the alumni dinner, though this may have been an exaggeration. There were official representatives from the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Rutgers, Lafayette, Dickinson, Muhlenberg, and other colleges. Among those who responded to toasts were Hon. John Cessna, Hon. George F. Baer, Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg, Dr. Traill Green, Dr. Stanhope Orris of Princeton, and possibly others. At 3 o'clock the Rev. Dr. J. Spangler Kieffer delivered an address on the "Relations of the College to the Church."

On the evening of the same day a second meeting was held in the Court House. Addresses were delivered by Dr. Lewis H. Steiner and the Honorable W. U. Hensel, and a Centennial Ode was read by the Reverend C. E. Siegel. The audience was very large, and the meeting was one of the most successful of the series. We well remember how at a late hour Mr. Hensel roused the audience to enthusiasm by an address on "The Relations of the City to the College."

The Commencement was held on Thursday in ancient form, and the "Centennial Class" was duly graduated.

<sup>1</sup>It was a pleasant but rather unusual incident that when Dr. Pepper met the treasurer he not only declined compensation for his services but insisted on his acceptance of a check for one thousand dollars as a contribution to the endowment of the College.

A public reception was held in the evening in the College building, and the attendance exceeded all anticipation. The crowd was actually so great that the waiters experienced much difficulty in distributing refreshments; but every one was in a good humor and the reception was declared an abundant success. An unforeseen event was the simultaneous explosion of a number of fireworks which it had been proposed to set off from the roof of Harbaugh Hall. The sight was magnificent while it lasted, but was too brief to be entirely satisfactory. Fortunately no harm was done to persons or property.

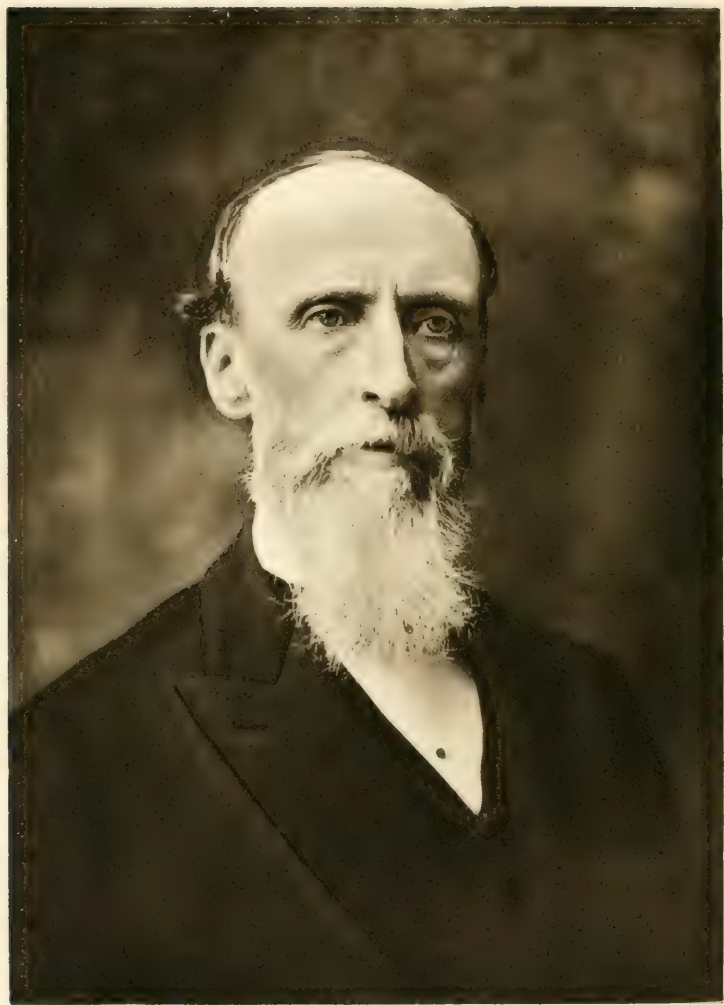
The Centennial was certainly a great occasion in the history of the College and it seemed as if everything had been done to render it interesting. Even the invitations and programs had been printed in antique style on hand-made paper, and were greatly admired. A complete series is now a *desideratum*.

The success of the centennial celebration encouraged the friends of the College to renewed efforts. It was deemed of the highest importance that the presidency should be fully endowed, and there was also a demand for increased facilities in scientific research. Dr. J. S. Stahr undertook the task of making a personal canvass, and for this purpose was temporarily relieved from teaching. For nearly two years he was engaged in this work, assisted for some time by the Rev. J. F. De Long, D.D. The results of this agency were very gratifying, amounting in all to upwards of forty thousand dollars. In the same year Drs. Kieffer and Schiedt secured contributions for the Library and Biological Department, amounting in all to about four thousand dollars and the "Geometrical Progression" plan, inaugurated by the ladies, brought nearly thirteen hundred.

The prospects of the College were now brighter than they had been for years. The number of students was gradually increasing, and there was general anticipation of brighter days. The endowment of the presidency having been nearly completed President Apple felt that the time had now come when he might honorably retire from his work in the College to devote himself entirely to his professorship in the Theological Seminary. In 1888 he offered his resignation, but was persuaded to remain another year. He loved the College and the separation was naturally painful; but he began to feel the weight of advancing years, and in 1889 his resignation was finally accepted. For nine years longer he labored in the Theological Seminary, continuing his studies and literary labors almost to the end. He died September 17, 1898. His faithful and disinterested service to the institutions of his Church will always be gratefully remembered.







John S. Seahr

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### RECENT HISTORY.

PRESIDENT JOHN S. STAHR — DEATH OF HON. JOHN CESSNA — ELECTION OF DR. GEO. F. BAER — FREE TUITION — BIENNIAL TESTS — ATHLETICS — MILITARY SCIENCE — NEW THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY — PRESENT COLLEGE FACULTY — DEATH OF DR. W. M. NEVIN — WATTS-DEPEYSTER LIBRARY — SCIENCE BUILDING — ACADEMY.

The incidents which we have still to relate may be supposed to be well remembered. They are, indeed, so near at hand that they can hardly be presented in proper proportions. All that we can hope to do is to give a brief summary of recent events, thus enabling the reader to form some idea of the present condition of the institution.

When Dr. Thomas G. Apple retired from the presidency of Franklin and Marshall College, in 1889, Dr. John S. Stahr, Professor of Natural Sciences, was appointed president *pro tem*. In the succeeding year, 1890, Dr. Stahr was elected President; and duly inaugurated at the opening of the fall term. On the latter occasion the exercises were under the general supervision of a committee of which the Reverend Dr. J. O. Miller was chairman.

President John Summers Stahr was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, December 2, 1841. He was graduated at Franklin and Marshall College, in 1867, and subsequently received the degrees of A.M., 1870, Ph.D., 1883, and D.D., 1891, the latter degree having been conferred by Lafayette College. Before he entered college

he had been a successful teacher, and his appointment as an instructor immediately after graduation was in recognition of his talents in this field. He was ordained to the ministry in 1872, and is extensively known as a preacher and as a contributor to the religious and educational press. Having been for many years engaged in the service of the institution, his elevation to the presidency gave assurance of faithfulness to the past and of earnest and unremitting labor in days to come.

The Honorable John Cessna was president of the Board of Trustees until his death, December 13, 1893. He had held this office since 1865 when he was chosen to succeed President James Buchanan. That he was earnestly devoted to the interest of the College has never been doubted. In caring for its financial investments no labor seemed too great, and at the meetings of the Board he was rarely if ever absent from his place. Though in later years he was overtaken by misfortune his affection for the College never wavered. Less than a year before his death he delivered at Commencement an address which was full of hope and enthusiasm.

John Cessna, LL.D., was born in Colerain township, Bedford county, Pennsylvania, June 29, 1821. His father was a farmer and he was the eldest of twelve children. Having been prepared by the Rev. B. R. Hall he entered Marshall College where he was graduated in 1842. Among his fellow students he was a natural leader, and he was noted for his sturdy independence of character. It is said that as long as he was a student he regularly made journeys on foot between the College and his home in Bedford county, a distance of forty miles.

After his graduation Mr. Cessna was for a year a tutor in Marshall College and then studied law. That he became a distinguished lawyer need hardly be said; and during the period of his public life there were few important political movements in which he was not profoundly interested. He was twice elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, and was also an eminent member of the National Congress. In 1892 he was again elected to the Legislature, after an absence of thirty years, and of this body he was a member at the time of his death.

When the Board of Trustees of Franklin and Marshall College proceeded to choose a successor to Mr. Cessna there was no difference of opinion. On the 19th of June, 1894, George F. Baer, LL.D., of Reading, was elected President, and this important position he still occupies.

Dr. Baer has been since 1872 a member of the Board of Trustees. Indeed, he has been identified with the institution for a much longer period, for in earlier years he was a student. He has always been an earnest supporter of the College; but since he has become its official head his wisdom and liberality have been important elements in its development. That in connection with his important duties as President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, he should find time to attend to the affairs of Franklin and Marshall College is a source of constant surprise and gratitude.

The closing decade of the nineteenth century brought many changes in the external and internal conditions of the institution. There was an earnest desire to accommodate the College to recent conditions, especially in the advancement of the Scientific Department. Liberal con-

tributions received during the centennial year from the Black and Eyerman families, members of the Third Street Reformed Church of Easton, Pa., through their pastor, the Rev. Henry M. Kieffer, D.D., and from Mrs. Hood, of Frederick, Md., rendered it possible to provide a chemical laboratory. Though small it served an excellent purpose, and its erection has been held to mark an era in the history of the College.

There were, indeed, evident signs of progress. The course of study was rearranged and a number of additional studies were included in the *curriculum*. In 1891 tuition was made free, so that since that date no student has had to pay for the instruction which he receives. This was an end to which the friends of the College had looked forward for many years, and there was great rejoicing. College fees are still collected, as has always been done; but they are smaller in amount than in most literary institutions. It is partly due to the abolition of fees for tuition that the necessary expenses of students may be kept within unusually narrow limits.

It was also in 1891 that the Biennial Test examinations were abolished. To the present generation of students it may be necessary to explain that these examinations were held at the end of the Sophomore and Senior years, and were in their day regarded as the chief "bugbear" of the course. In each instance the student was examined on all the branches studied during the previous two years, and on his success in this examination his promotion depended. This method had been employed since 1857, and it hardly seemed possible that it could ever be abrogated. The Sophomore Test was peculiarly trying, and many students failed to be promoted. Efforts were frequently made to





Geo. F. Baer



escape the ordeal, but generally without success. Once, however, it is said, a "smart" Sophomore, who felt the Test approaching, applied for a regular dismissal to an institution in which no such examination existed. The application could not well be refused and the transition was duly made; but at the opening of the next term he was, at his own request, dismissed back to Franklin and Marshall and was admitted *ad eundem* to the Junior class, thus escaping the Sophomore Test. If this story is authentic it was a peculiarly sharp trick.

The Tests were, of course, intended to promote study, as well as to preserve the unity of the course; but it was claimed that they induced inordinate "cramming" and in some instances wrought positive injustice. However this may have been, it is certain that the institution did not suffer from their discontinuance.

Franklin and Marshall College has always declared that education concerns the whole man, involving the development of the body, mind and soul. That physical health is essential to mental and spiritual culture has never been doubted; but it must be confessed that in the early history of the institution no one seems to have given to athletics the attention which the subject manifestly deserves. The sports in which students engaged were those of their earlier years, and for want of proper direction were frequently rough, not to say improper. In 1862 Dr. Gerhart proposed to the Board of Trustees the erection of a Gymnasium, "or partial substitute," to supply students with the means of securing vigorous and exhilarating exercises. It was accordingly ordered that there should be erected on the college grounds "leaping-bars, exercising ladders and a swinging pole or poles" and that a

“hand-ball-alley and a cricket-ground” should also be provided. To what extent this resolution was carried out we have no means of knowing; but as it was passed in the days of the Civil War and many of the students were soon afterward invited to engage in a very different sort of exercise, it is not probable that much was accomplished. Many efforts were subsequently made to advance the cause of athletics, especially by Professor Smyth who was an accomplished athlete; but it was not until 1890 that anything important was actually accomplished. In that year a meeting was held on the campus on the day before Commencement, and a number of subscriptions were secured for the erection and furnishing of a Gymnasium. That this movement proved successful was chiefly due to the efforts of the Honorable W. U. Hensel. The building was completed in 1891, and was fully provided with all the requirements for athletic work. The bowling alley was supplied by the liberality of Mr. H. S. Williamson, who has taken great interest in athletics and from whom Williamson Field derives its name. The cost of the building was \$7,000, of which about \$4,000 were supplied by voluntary subscription.

In 1891 Dr. William Mann Irvine became Physical Instructor and Director of the Gymnasium, at the same time serving as Assistant Professor in Political Economy and English. He had been known as an athlete at Princeton, and was an enthusiastic advocate of gymnastic exercises and athletic sports as an important element in college discipline. In organizing the department of athletics, and under his direction the foot-ball team became formidable. Among the students there was great enthusiasm; and there was some surprise among the older people when

it was found that devotion to college sports did not make students rough and boisterous, but on the contrary rendered them more orderly and amenable to discipline.

There is nothing in the world more admirable than the development of manhood, but unless such development is harmonious it will be stunted or distorted. Youthful vigor is a precious possession; but if it is not properly guarded it may easily lead to excess. Athletics have not only taught with renewed force the ancient lesson that "he who striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things"; they have long since ceased to be regarded as mere recreations, and are fully recognized as a necessary preliminary to healthy and vigorous manhood. Since the resignation of Dr. Irvine, in 1893, the position of Physical Director has been successively held by George W. Hartman, Frederick Benner, Dr. H. S. Wingert, Dr. John H. Outland, Dr. John Hedges and John G. Chalmers. The department is highly esteemed, and has been the source of many struggles and triumphs whose story enthusiastic athletes are best fitted to relate.

In 1894 Military Science and Tactics became a department of instruction. An officer of the army of the United States was specially detailed by the government for service in the College, giving military instruction and drill. This position was held until 1900 by Captain Edgar Wellington Howe, who was succeeded by Major Robert F. Bates. Regular drill was no doubt beneficial in many ways, and military exercises were, of course, a pleasant sight; but the arrangement did not prove in all respects satisfactory, and in 1901 the detail was at the request of the College withdrawn, and the arms which had been furnished by the government were duly returned.



The Theological Seminary, as we have seen, had for many years occupied rooms in the College Building. Though the intimate relation of the institutions was in many respects pleasant, it is evident that both were greatly crowded. As the Faculties increased the pressure became greater, and it was felt the best interests of both institutions required a local separation.

Dr. E. V. Gerhart had earnestly appealed to the Church for aid which the Theological Seminary urgently needed. It was necessary, he insisted, that the number of professors should be increased, and that a suitable building should be erected. At the meeting of the Eastern Synod, held in 1884 at Pottstown, Pa., the work was taken up with great enthusiasm, and the synods of Pittsburg and the Potomac immediately coöperated. Each of the latter synods succeeded in completing the endowment of a professorship, and in each instance a member of the body was chosen to be the first incumbent. The Rev. Dr. John C. Bowman was, in October, 1890, elected Professor of New Testament Exegesis, as representing the Synod of the Potomac; and the Rev. Dr. William Rupp, of the Synod of Pittsburg, was in October, 1893, installed Professor of Practical Theology. The Eastern Synod temporarily limited its efforts to completing the endowment of the professorship of Old Testament Theology, held by Dr. F. A. Gast, and to gathering the nucleus of a fund for the erection of a suitable building.

If we were writing a history of the Theological Seminary we should have to devote a long chapter to the latter work. Never before in the history of the Reformed Church had there been such an outpouring of general benevolence, and there are many individuals who for their

liberality hold a prominent place in the financial records of the institution. In gathering contributions for the new building the Rev. Dr. J. C. Bowman was especially active, but he had efficient coadjutors whose names are mentioned in the Proceedings of their respective synods. The Library, which is connected by a corridor with the main building, was erected by a separate subscription, and the names of contributors appear on a tablet at the entrance. Alcoves in the library were endowed by individuals; and in brief everything was done to render the building attractive and complete. The stream of benevolence, which had at times been almost imperceptible, now swelled into a flood, and the friends of the institution were correspondingly delighted.

The new Theological Seminary was dedicated on the 10th of May, 1894. The services were conducted by the Rev. Drs. E. V. Gerhart and T. G. Apple, and the dedicatory sermon was preached by the Rev. J. H. Dubbs, on Psalms 48, 12-14.

The Seminary Building is universally admired. At the time of the dedication the sum reported as actually expended for grounds and buildings was \$77,965.74; but by the subsequent purchase of grounds and the erection of additional buildings this amount was considerably increased. That no debt was suffered to accumulate is highly creditable to the friends of the institution. The Faculty of the Theological Seminary, as constituted in 1903, is as follows: Rev. Emanuel V. Gerhart, D.D., LL.D., President of the Faculty, Professor of Systematic Theology; Rev. George W. Richards, D.D., Professor of Church History; Rev. Frederick A. Gast, Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Theology; Rev. John C. Bow-

man, D.D., Professor of New Testament Exegesis; Rev. William Rupp, D.D., Secretary of the Faculty, Professor of Practical Theology; John Q. Adams, B.L., Professor of Oratory; Rev. John L. Swander, D.D., Lecturer on the Foundation of the Swander Memorial Lectureship.

The removal of the Theological Seminary to its new home left more room for the expansion of the College. The number of students increased and it soon became necessary to divide the classes into sections. In this way the labor of individual professors was greatly increased; but there was no one who failed to perform the duties assigned him. It was felt that new conditions imperatively demanded a new arrangement of studies. In the higher classes elective studies were introduced, and efforts were made to arrange the schedule in accordance with modern requirements. Several distinct courses of undergraduate study were recognized, and plans for advanced reading were prepared for graduates who desired to continue their studies. It was, however, in the department of Science—as we shall see hereafter—that the greatest advances were made.

In the constitution of the College Faculty but few changes were made. In 1893 the Reverend C. Ernest Wagner became Professor of the English Language and Literature. Professor Anselm V. Hiester began to teach in 1892, became Assistant Professor in 1894, and was in 1898 promoted to his present professorship of Political and Social Science. During his temporary absence, from 1896 to 1898, his place was supplied by Professor Samuel W. Kerr. Professor Clarence Nevin Heller has since 1895 continuously served as Assistant Professor of Ancient Languages, except that during his absence in

1897-98 his place was supplied by Professor Ambrose Cort. John Michael Grove was from 1895 to 1901, Assistant in Natural Science, and in the latter year Herbert Huebener Beck became Assistant Professor of Chemistry. The department of Oratory which was formally established in 1885 has been in charge of Mr. Silas J. Neff (1885-1892), Miss Minnie L. Morgan (1893-1896), Professor Claude B. Davis (1897-1902), and Professor John Quincy Adams. Dr. William Kurrelmeyer was, in 1899-1900, Professor of Modern Languages and in the latter year he was succeeded by the Rev. Elmer Ellsworth Powell, Ph.D. The department of Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene was revived in 1894 by Martin L. Herr, M.D., who labored faithfully and with great self-sacrifice until his death, which occurred in 1902. Since the death of Dr. Herr this post has been held by Dr. Charles Patterson Stahr. The Faculty of the College as at present constituted is as follows:

Rev. John Summers Stahr, Ph.D., D.D., President, Professor of Mental and Moral Science, Æsthetics, and the Philosophy of History; Rev. Joseph Henry Dubbs, D.D., LL.D., Audenried Professor of History and Archæology; John Brainerd Kieffer, Ph.D., Librarian, Professor of the Greek Language and Literature; Jefferson E. Kershner, Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics and Physics; Rev. George Fulmer Mull, A.M., Secretary, Professor of the Latin Language and Literature; Rev. Richard Conrad Schiedt, A.M., Ph.D., Professor of Natural Science and Chemistry; Rev. C. Ernest Wagner, A.M., Professor of the English Language and Literature; Anselm Vinet Hiester, A.M., Professor of Political and Social Science, and Assistant Professor of Mathematics; Clar-



ence Nevin Heller, A.M., Treasurer, Assistant Professor of Ancient Languages; Rev. Elmer Ellsworth Powell, Ph.D., Professor of Modern Languages; Herbert Huebener Beck, A.C., Assistant Professor of Chemistry; Charles Patterson Stahr, A.M., M.D., Lecturer on Anatomy and Assistant Professor of Bacteriology; John Quincy Adams, B.L., LL.B., Professor of Oratory; John G. Chalmers, Physical Instructor and Director of the Gymnasium.

There are at present no Tutors officially connected with the institution. Since the union of the colleges that position has at various times been occupied by the following gentlemen: J. Merrill Linn, William Leaman, Wilberforce Nevin, Robert J. Nevin, John Van Haagen, John S. Stahr, Albert E. Truxal, Thomas S. Land, J. E. Kershner, Cyrus J. Musser, A. P. Horn, P. M. Trexler, Lewis Robb, A. M. Schmidt, Lewis T. Lampe and William E. Bushong.

The only death of a member of the Faculty which has occurred during the present presidency—besides that of Dr. M. L. Herr—has been that of Dr. William M. Nevin. It was an occasion of profound sorrow, for there have been few men more generally beloved; and his departure appeared to involve the breaking of the last link that bound the College to its early history in Mercersburg. It may be interesting to read the memorial action taken by the Faculty at the time of his death:

“IN MEMORIAM.

“PROF. WILLIAM M. NEVIN, LL.D.

“1806-1892.

“Prof. William M. Nevin, LL.D., late Emeritus Alumni







C. ERNEST WAGNER

ELMER E. POWELL.

ANSELMO V. HIESTER.

JOHN C. BOWMAN.

RICHARD C. SCHIEDT.

JOSEPH H. DUBBS.

JOHN S. STAHR.

CLARENCE N. HELLER.

GEORGE F. MULL.

FREDERICK A. GAST.

PROFESSORS AND INSTRUCTORS 1903.



JOHN B. KIEFFER,  
EMANUEL V. GERHART,  
GEORGE W. RICHARDS.

JEFFERSON E. KERSHNER,  
JOHN Q. ADAMS,  
HERBERT H. BECK.

EDWIN M. HARTMAN,  
CHARLES P. STAHR.

THADDEUS G. HELM,  
WILLIAM RUPP.

PROFESSORS AND INSTRUCTORS, 1903.



Professor of English Literature and Belles-Lettres in Franklin and Marshall College, died on Thursday evening, February 11, 1892, having reached the mature age of 86 years and 4 days.

“For more than fifty years Professor Nevin was engaged without interruption in the service of Marshall College and Franklin and Marshall College, having begun his career in the former as Professor of Ancient Languages in 1840. When Franklin and Marshall College was organized at Lancaster in 1853, he continued under the new organization as incumbent of the same chair, acting also as President until the Rev. Dr. E. V. Gerhart was elected to the Presidency. In 1872 he was elected Alumni Professor of English Literature and Belles-Lettres, which position he held until death terminated his labors. In 1886 he was made Professor Emeritus, but it was his pleasure to continue to lecture until within a few weeks of his death, and his interest in the College was unabated until he passed quietly and triumphantly into the presence of the great Teacher.

“When a career so long, so useful and so honorable is brought to a close, it is fitting that the event should receive more than a passing notice, and therefore the members of the Faculty of the College with a view both to express their sense of the great loss which the College has suffered, and to put upon record their high appreciation of the life and character of their distinguished colleague, unanimously adopted the following:

“*Resolved*, 1st. That we deem it a privilege to bear witness to the high culture and eminent abilities of the late Dr. William M. Nevin, whose thorough acquaintance with the ancient languages, supplemented by loving familiarity with English Literature, rendered him peculiarly qualified for the position which for many years he so worthily occupied.

“*Resolved*, 2d. That the purity of his life, the faithful-



ness of his service, and the gentle courtesy of his manner endeared him to his associates and secured the lasting affection of those who enjoyed the privilege of receiving his instructions.

*“Resolved, 3d. That we record our appreciation of the distinguished merits of our departed colleague in the full assurance that the name of Dr. William M. Nevin, which has been so long and so honorably connected with this institution, will in all its future history be held in reverent and loving remembrance.”*

Dr. W. M. Nevin's "Lectures on the History of English Literature," edited by Dr. Theodore Appel, were published by the Alumni Association in 1895 as a memorial volume. The fine pipe organ which through the efforts of Mrs. J. B. Kieffer and other ladies of the congregation has been placed in the college chapel is also dedicated to the memory of Dr. W. M. Nevin.

It is sad to reflect on the numerous changes which have occurred in the Board of Trustees. Since 1890 no less than twenty-one prominent members have died. Though we have no room to speak at length of their labors in behalf of the institution they have left an honorable record, and their names will be gratefully remembered.<sup>1</sup> The work of their associates and successors is no less highly appreciated, and it is, of course, to them that we mainly look for future advancement.

Two important buildings have recently been added to

<sup>1</sup> The following members of the Board have died since June, 1890: Thomas G. Apple, Jacob Bausman, John Cessna, Joseph Coblentz, Jacob Y. Dietz, D. W. Gross, John C. Hager, George W. Hensel, C. U. Heilman, Harrison P. Laird, J. W. Killinger, J. O. Miller, Charles Santee, Benjamin F. Shenk, Francis Shroder, A. Herr Smith, J. P. Wickersham, C. Z. Weiser, Henry Wirt, B. Wolff, Jr., Calvin M. Bower.

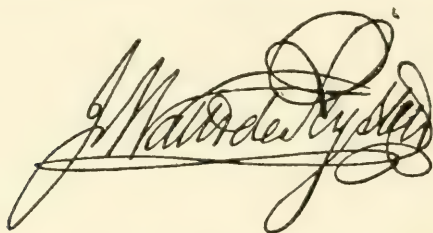
the group that is clustered around the College towers, and some account of their origin and history may reasonably be expected. The events we have still to relate are, however, so recent and well known that it is hardly necessary to consider them at length.

The Watts-dePeyster Library is the gift of General John Watts de Peyster, LL.D., of Tivoli, Dutchess county, New York. It was erected in 1897-98; and it may be said that it came to the friends of the institution as a delightful surprise.

For many years the necessity for the erection of a Library Building had been fully recognized. When Dr. J. B. Kieffer became Librarian in 1888 the condition of the College Library was very discouraging. The books were few in number and mostly antiquated, and had been placed in an unsuitable room, rather for safe-keeping than for actual use. The libraries of the literary societies, it must be said, were well selected, and kept the students familiar with the current literature; but the materials for actual research were lamentably insufficient. Dr. Kieffer made the most of the library as he found it, and the number of volumes slowly increased; but many years would probably have passed before the literary wants of the College were fully met if it had not been for the unexpected and generous gift of the gentleman who may properly be regarded as the Founder of the Library.

John Watts de Peyster was born in New York, March 9, 1821. On both sides he is descended from families which have held a distinguished place in the history of New York from the time of its earliest settlement. Enthusiastically devoted to historic studies he has published hundreds of valuable monographs. He is also distin-

guished as a soldier, and was made Major General by special act of the legislature "for meritorious service." In military matters he is regarded as an authority of the highest rank, and it is probable that no one has ever more minutely studied the campaigns of Napoleon. Among his published writings are "Life of Leonard Torstenson, Field Marshal Generalissimo of Sweden," "The Dutch at the North Pole and the Dutch in Maine," "Carausius, the Dutch Augustus," "Personal and Military History of Major General Philip Kearney" and many other valuable works. Possessed of great wealth he has been very liberal in the foundation and endowment of literary and charit-



able institutions, and it was the good fortune of Franklin and Marshall College to become a partaker in his bounty.

Many years ago General de Peyster was elected an honorary member of the Diognothian Literary Society. Though he had often been similarly honored he did not forget the compliment, and about 1885 wrote to inquire whether the society was still in existence. Having been informed that it was still alive and prosperous he sent a large number of books for the library. At this time Mr. Abraham H. Rothermel of the class of 1887 was corresponding secretary of the society, and a correspondence ensued which proved mutually pleasant. Having sub-

sequently been honored with General de Peyster's friendship it became his privilege to present the cause of his Alma Mater. At Mr. Rothermel's suggestion General de Peyster most generously erected at his own expense the beautiful building which now adorns the college campus. Dr. J. B. Kieffer was unwearied in superintending the building and in otherwise advancing the interests of the Library, and it is to his constant labor that the present excellent condition of the Library is mainly due.

On account of the state of his health General de Peyster has not felt able to visit Lancaster where his presence would be so warmly welcomed. At the laying of the corner-stone and at the dedication he was represented by Mr. Rothermel who at the former occasion delivered the principal address, and at the latter formally presented the Library to the College in the name of the donor. The building was named the Watts-dePeyster Library, in honor of the General's father, Frederick de Peyster, and his maternal grandfather, the Honorable John Watts.

That the building is beautiful and commodious need hardly be said. It is intended to accommodate a library of about seventy thousand volumes. The cost of the building was about \$30,000, but the General subsequently added shelves and furnishings at an additional expense of about \$6,000. He also placed in front of the library a valuable bronze statue of a distinguished ancestor. His recent gifts have been numerous, consisting of several thousand books and many works of art. The College has every reason to be proud of its beautiful library, and the name of its founder must always be held in grateful remembrance.

At the entrance to the library is a tablet bearing the following appropriate inscription:

THIS LIBRARY IS  
ERECTED AS A  
MEMORIAL  
OF  
JOHN WATTS  
“*vir æquanimitatis*”  
and of  
FREDERICK DE PEYSTER,  
*vir auctoritatis*,  
By a  
Grandson and Son,  
who, bearing both names, seeks  
to continue in their honor, the  
good they did and taught him.

Since the erection of the Library many valuable contributions have been received from different sources. The Honorable W. U. Hensel, Dr. N. C. Schaeffer, Paul Heine, Charles F. Rengier and Walter C. Hager have founded alcoves for advanced literary study; and considerable collections of books have been received by gift or bequest from the private libraries of the late Reverend Clement Z. Weiser, D.D., and Frank Geise, Esq., late Mayor of York, Pennsylvania.

The Science Building is the most recent of the structures erected by Franklin and Marshall College. It occupies the site of Harbaugh Hall, but is of course larger and more imposing. Its appearance is greatly admired, and there are few similar buildings which provide more satisfactorily for advanced scientific research. Though we lack space for particulars it may be interesting to say a few words concerning the movement which led to a more important result than its early promoters had ever anticipated.



The steady increase in the number of students suggested the necessity for further development. Long ago essays and reports were presented to the Board by Dr. J. S. Stahr, fully explaining the wants of the College, especially the teaching of the Natural Sciences; and it is but just to say that he has constantly given life and inspiration to the movement which led to the enlargement of the scientific departments. He was succeeded as Professor of Natural Sciences by Dr. R. C. Schiedt, whose enthusiasm and vigorous action were of great value in advancing the cause.

In 1895 the Board of Trustees adopted a plan, known as the "Building and Loan Association," by which it was hoped the endowment of the College would be largely increased. In its organization and methods it greatly resembled the building associations with which all are familiar. Members subscribed for a certain number of shares, on each of which they were to pay a monthly assessment. When the shares matured the accumulated amount was to be paid into the treasury of the College in payment of an equal subscription. By thus distributing payments through a term of years it was supposed that they would become less burdensome.

The "Building Association" was founded with a great deal of enthusiasm, and at a meeting of the Board shares amounting to \$25,250 were taken. The Reverend Ambrose M. Schmidt was chosen Financial Secretary, and besides laboring for the general interests of the College he was directed to take charge of the affairs of the proposed association. His work proved of great advantage to the College, but it must be confessed that the "Building and Loan Association" did not prove successful. The whole amount secured in this way was \$31,774.75.

Though the expectations of the founders of the association were not realized it was found that there were many persons who were willing to assist in the erection of a Science Building. A fund was created for this purpose, and Mr. Schmidt secured pledges to the amount of eleven thousand dollars, but the Board declined to proceed with the building until at least twenty thousand dollars were secured. Then President George F. Baer came to the rescue with a pledge that the needed \$9,000 should be ready in due time. The work was begun and at the laying of the corner-stone, June 13, 1900, the Honorable Geo. F. Baer and Dr. T. C. Porter delivered the addresses. Dr. Stahr says:

“Mr. Schmidt continued his labors until June, 1901, by which time the whole amount pledged was \$31,307.91. At the annual Commencement of 1901 additional pledges were made by members of the Board of Trustees and others, and it was resolved to proceed with the work until the building was finished. The building with heating apparatus, furniture, grading of grounds, etc., cost in round numbers \$65,000. The Chemical Laboratories were equipped by Mr. Milton S. Hershey, of Lancaster, at a cost of \$5,000; the Biological Laboratories by the family of the late B. Wolff, Jr., of Pittsburgh, at a cost of \$5,500; the Geological Equipment was given by Mr. Charles F. Rengier, costing \$1,000. The whole outlay is, therefore, about \$76,000.”<sup>1</sup>

Other contributions for special purposes have been made by the firm of Watt and Shand, Mr. Paul Heine and others.

For the erection of the Science Building great credit is due to Drs. Stahr, Schiedt and Kershner. The work

<sup>1</sup> *Reformed Church Review*, April, 1903.



GYMNASIUM.

MAIN BUILDING AND HALLS.

OBSERVATORY.

WATTS-DEPEYSTER LIBRARY.

SCIENCE BUILDING.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

GROUP OF BUILDINGS.



of the Building Committee, of which Mr. W. H. Hager was chairman, is also highly appreciated. The Science Building is at present occupied by the several departments of Philosophy, Natural Science and Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics. The Museum has recently received many valuable additions, among which are the cabinets gathered by the Literary Societies. A specimen of the extinct *Dinornis giganteus* has recently been added by Mr. J. Milton Mays, of Philadelphia. The Herbarium, whose beginnings go back to the days of Muhlenberg, has been greatly enlarged by the acquisition of the collection made by the late A. P. Garber, M.D. The library and extensive collection of coleoptera made by the late Dr. S. S. Rathvon has been purchased and presented by Henry Bobb, M.D., of East Greenville, Pa., as a memorial of his son, the late Eugene H. Bobb, of the class of 1895. With regard to such contributions we have no room for particulars and omissions are unavoidable. It must, however, be added that the Linnæan Society—a local scientific association founded many years ago by Dr. Thomas C. Porter—has by special agreement deposited its valuable collection in the Science Building, thus providing additional material for study in the natural sciences.

The completion of the Science Building was an occasion of great rejoicing. At the formal opening an excellent address was delivered by Dr. E. F. Smith, Vice-Provost of the University of Pennsylvania. That an important step had been taken could not be doubted and the way seemed opened to enlarged future usefulness. The Science Building will not only prove a monument of Dr. Stahr's successful presidency, but will, we believe, be followed by important advances in other departments of study.



The condition of the College may be described as promising. The invested endowment is at present \$206,896.96. It is very small and calls for immediate enlargement. The institution has, however, certain minor sources of income to which we have already referred, and at a low estimate the property and investment may be valued at \$500,000. This, of course, does not include the Theological Seminary or the Academy.

The College has received a number of legacies, of which the latest is one of ten thousand dollars from the estate of the late Jacob Y. Dietz, of Philadelphia. There are also occasional memorials and souvenirs which are peculiarly interesting. In 1896 the bell which now hangs in the tower was presented by Mrs. George N. Forney, of Hanover, Pa., in memory of her son, the late J. Wirt Forney, of the class of 1881.

In 1897 Messrs. Thaddeus G. Helm and Edwin M. Hartman—both graduates of the College—succeeded Mr. W. W. Moore as rectors of Franklin and Marshall Academy. Under their care this institution has been remarkably prosperous, and has annually presented a considerable number of students for admission to college.

The institutions at Lancaster have never been so fortunate as to receive large endowments, either from the State or from individuals. They have labored under many difficulties, but it cannot be denied that they have accomplished an important work. Under all the circumstances they have every reason to thank God and take courage.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

THE CHURCH — COLLEGE Y. M. C. A. — LITERARY SOCIETIES — FRATERNITIES — CLUBS — PUBLICATIONS — ENTERTAINMENTS —  
STUDENT LIFE.

Dr. Harbaugh preached one of his best sermons on the text: "Gather up the fragments that remain that nothing be lost." As we approach the end of our work there are certain facts concerning social conditions which deserve to be mentioned; and this passage of Scripture may therefore be regarded as the motto of the present chapter.

In the College the Church continues to be the center of social as well as of religious life. St. Stephen's church continues to occupy the College chapel, which was in 1873-74 enlarged at its expense. The congregation is composed of the professors and their families and of a few families not otherwise connected with the institution, together with students who have at their own request been admitted to membership. The pastors, who successively occupy the pulpit, are ministers belonging to the several Faculties; and these pastors elect the presiding pastor who has general charge of the church. Elders and Deacons are elected by the congregation. Students are expected to attend the regular services on Sunday, unless at the request of their parents they have received permission to worship elsewhere.

St. Stephen's church is connected with the Classis of Lancaster of the Reformed Church in the United States, and seeks to perform its full duty as a Christian congre-

gation. As there are no salaries to be paid it is in a favorable position to engage in enterprises of general benevolence. It aims to be a Christian church in the broadest and most generous sense, and gladly coöperates with Christians of every name and profession.

The Reformed Church in the United States (formerly known as the German Reformed Church) we venture to say to those who are not familiar with its history—is derived in an unbroken line from the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century. In early days the main centers of its life in Europe were Zurich, Geneva and Heidelberg. Though it never recognized a human director, its most eminent leaders were Zwingli, Calvin and Frederick III., elector of the Palatinate. Its confession of faith is the Heidelberg Catechism. Dating from a period antecedent to the great controversies which resulted in the establishment of many denominations, the Reformed Church has few decided peculiarities in faith or practice, but has held with unswerving tenacity to Christ as the source and center of the Christian life.

The relations of Franklin and Marshall College with a Christian denomination are not unusual. In earlier days such relations were indeed, almost universal; and it may be truly said that without the activity of the churches Harvard, Yale and Princeton could not have been founded. Franklin College was, we believe, the only instance of an institution that was proposed to be representative of two denominations and of “the outside community”; but, as we have seen, divided control became the chief obstacle to success. Until very recently it was believed that denominational patronage was essential to success; and even now it may be regarded as doubtful whether a “small college”

could be successfully established without such aid. These relations do not necessarily involve "sectarian" teaching, and it may be confidently asserted that from this evil Franklin and Marshall College has always been free. The Board of Trustees has been careful to observe the spirit of the requirements of its earliest charter, so that at no time have all its members been connected with the same religious denomination.

The College Young Men's Christian Association has been prosperous and useful. For some years it has published a Student's Handbook, containing much information for new students, and has furnished a room in the College Building. Its work has proved valuable and is highly appreciated.

Turning now from religious interests to those which are distinctively literary, we need but remind the reader that the Goethean and Diagnothian societies are still flourishing. They occupy the halls which their predecessors erected almost fifty years ago. At one time there was a period of depression and it seemed as if they could not escape the fate which has come upon the literary societies of many similar institutions. New students hesitated long before connecting themselves with either society, so that it was seriously proposed to make membership in one of the societies obligatory on every student. This would have destroyed the freedom and spontaneity which constitute the greatest charm of such associations, and the proposed action was not generally approved. Recently there has been a favorable reaction and the literary societies are now more prosperous than they have been for years. This is plainly indicated by the fact that both halls have been thoroughly repaired and beautified at the expense of students and alumni. Mr. S. H. Ranck has said:

“With their handsomely frescoed halls, their libraries, and the furniture and fittings, each society is the owner of property worth about \$20,000. The two libraries alone contain over 16,000 well-selected books. Excepting the literary societies of Princeton alone, I believe they are the most valuable college literary society properties in the world.”<sup>1</sup>

In the judgment of the best friends of the institution the literary societies hold high rank in the work of educational training. They teach their members in the best possible way how to put what they have learned to practical use. The most eminent alumni are ready to acknowledge that their success has been largely due to the training which they received in the literary societies.

There are at present three “Greek Letter fraternities” which have chapters in Franklin and Marshall College. The oldest is “Phi Kappa Sigma” which received its charter from the parent chapter in the University of Pennsylvania, in 1854. “Chi Phi” was founded a few months later in the same year, and derived its origin from Princeton. “Phi Kappa Psi” was established in 1860 on the basis of an older local fraternity which was known as “Phi Beta Tau.” It is a branch of an order which was founded at Jefferson College. There have been several other fraternities which we remember chiefly by the golden badges which they occasionally displayed; but as these have not been seen for many years they may be presumed to have quietly passed out of existence.

The organization of fraternities in the earliest years of Franklin and Marshall may perhaps have been induced by the feeling of loneliness to which we have referred. After

<sup>1</sup> *The Reformed Church Review*, April, 1903.



the removal from Mercersburg the students felt themselves strangers in the community, and we can testify to the fact that many of them suffered from aggravated attacks of "home-sickness." Under such circumstances it is not surprising that certain little companies were drawn together for mutual sympathy and support. After subsisting for some time in this way a chance visit from a member of a fraternity, or a letter from a friend in another college, may have suggested complete organization.

The veil of secrecy which veils fraternities is of course profound. They sometimes claim fabulous antiquity, and their initiations are said to be cabalistic and very mysterious. Further we cannot hope to go, though we may wonder what is the nature of the wonderful secrets which they decline to reveal.

Fraternities have been greatly opposed, and there can be no doubt that some fraternities have deserved all that could be said against them. The fact seems to be that they are exactly what their members make them. When they are properly conducted they claim to advance the culture and protect the morals of their members; when they happen to be controlled by evil influences the result may easily be foreseen. At present the fraternities dwell in beautiful houses, and are careful to preserve their good reputation. As they may soon celebrate their semi-centennial it may perhaps be taken for granted that they have come to stay.

The fact that the College has at present no dormitory has probably been favorable to the organization of clubs, some of which are fraternities in all but name. These clubs are mostly of recent origin, but give evidence of becoming permanent institutions. They rent houses and

practice housekeeping in a way which is both liberal and economical, so that they often succeed in greatly reducing the expenses of their members while affording them all the comforts of a pleasant home. In the *Oriflamme* for 1902 appear the names of the following clubs: "Paradise," "Nevonia," "College Ralstons," "Franklin Club" and "Harbaugh Club." The "Nevonia," we have been informed, has recently been reorganized as a chapter of a Greek letter fraternity which is known as "Phi Sigma Kappa."

As has already been intimated the department of Athletics is well organized, and the interest which is taken in base-ball and foot-ball has never been known to flag. For those who incline to music there are the "Glee Club" and "Mandolin Club," which have given many delightful concerts at home and abroad.

There are several periodicals which are conducted exclusively by students. *The College Student*, a monthly magazine, is published by the literary societies. It is now in its twenty-third volume, and circulates chiefly in the college and among the alumni. *The F. & M. Weekly* is twelve years old. It is a bright paper devoted exclusively to college news, and as such furnishes an excellent representation of the social life of the institution. The "personals" concerning the alumni are especially interesting, and by their means the present generation is kept *en rapport* with those who have gone before. The *Oriflamme* has been published since 1882 by each successive Junior class. It contains many valuable historical articles, besides some material which is intended chiefly for students and which sometimes fails to be fully appreciated by older people. For the excellence of its typography and the beauty of its

illustrations this splendid volume deserves a place in the foremost rank of college annuals. *The Nevonian*, which first appeared in 1892, is issued at Commencement and gives a full account of its various exercises.

*The Obituary Record* can hardly be called a periodical, but is recognized as a publication of great value. It is edited and published by a committee of the Alumni Association, of which Mr. S. H. Ranck is chairman; and in its successive numbers the life-story of departed alumni is sympathetically related. The Alumni Association, which has had an organized existence for more than sixty years, has recently been an important factor in the history of the College. Besides the important publications which it has issued, it has in many ways labored to promote the best interests of the institution. It is to the alumni that the College must look for intelligent assistance.

During the winter months the representations of the dramatic clubs have given much pleasure. The "Green Room Club" has presented several excellent plays, and the "Schiller Verein" of the Junior class has acted pleasant comedies in the German language. In producing these plays the students spare no pains and they are always highly appreciated.

There is, in fact, no lack of literary entertainment. For several years the students have been favored with a course of lectures by eminent men who have discussed some of the vital questions of the day. There are also debates and inter-collegiate contests, anniversaries and exhibitions, with other occasions that aim to unite the agreeable with the useful.

To describe at length the social conditions of Lancaster students is equally beyond our power and purpose. If

there are social prejudices we are not aware of them. In many homes students are welcome guests, and they are unanimous in grateful acknowledgment of the courtesies which they receive. The social recognition of a student, it is well known, depends upon his conduct and culture.

Student-life is proverbially joyous; but when physical and mental strength is crowned by moral excellence it becomes rounded and complete. This is the ideal which the institution is constantly striving to realize.

The accomplishment of the highest purposes of the College demands united and persevering labor. "The destinies of the world are in the hands of those that work." That the institution has accomplished much good in the days of its poverty will not be denied; and though its trials may not yet be ended it can never be deprived of the reward that comes from honest toil.

## CHAPTER XXX.

### CONCLUSION.

#### A COMMON PURPOSE — A PECULIAR LIFE — AN UNFALTERING TRUST.

At the end of our journey it may be well to look back to the course over which we have travelled. Though the way was at times rough there were also pleasant places and prospects which it is delightful to recall. As we approached the end the journey became less difficult, and there was constant occasion to bless the memory of the men who by their labor prepared the way for our feet.

It is evident at a glance that the institutions whose history we have endeavored to relate were founded for a common purpose. The two older colleges which were brought together in 1853 were both established in the special interest of early German settlers, though they were never intended for their exclusive benefit. In the life and language of the people of Pennsylvania a century has wrought great changes; and no one now cherishes the plans of the founders with regard to the extension of purely German culture in America. There are many of us who love the language and literature of Germany; but the hopes of the fathers for their permanent establishment in this country were at best but beautiful dreams. We do not even desire the preservation of racial distinctions, and look forward to the full development of a common American life.

There is, however, a higher sense in which Franklin and Marshall College may justly claim to have been faithful to the purposes of its founders. Indeed, we may



boldly assert that there has never been a time when it has failed to guard the trust which was committed to its care. It is this fact which is its chief honor and which renders it in the fullest sense an historical institution. In the course of years it has developed a peculiar life which has been termed "Anglo-German"; and it is not too much to say that on more than a single occasion it has served—as Dr. Rush so hopefully anticipated—as a channel through which the learning of the fatherland was conveyed to our country. In Franklin College there were conditions which prevented the profound consideration of theological and philosophical questions; but no one can doubt that Muhlenberg and Melsheimer were pioneers in the study of the Natural Sciences, or that Ross and Schipper gained distinction in philological research. That Marshall College during its brief history decidedly influenced the thinking of America is now generally acknowledged. It evolved a system of philosophy which was, indeed, violently opposed, but at the same time gathered adherents all over the land. It now seems strange that declarations of "the Mercersburg school" which were once fiercely contested have more recently been quietly accepted by all the churches. Men like Rauch, Nevin and Schaff exerted an influence which has not ceased with their death and will continue to be felt by future generations.

Franklin and Marshall College has been faithful to its antecedents. There has been no break in its history—no shattering of its high ideals. We have told the story of its work; its best results, we feel assured, are yet to be revealed.

That the so-called "small college" is threatened by dangers we are fully aware. New conditions must bring

new problems. All that we can say is that Franklin and Marshall College presents conditions for faithful and successful labor. It has a beautiful home and many requirements for advanced study in literature and science. These have chiefly been gained by earnest toil and are consequently highly appreciated. When poverty leads to effort it is not always a misfortune. The number of alumni is more than twelve hundred, and their attachment to the institution is earnest and sincere. There are precious traditions which we hope to transmit to future generations as constant sources of inspiration and advancement. There are communities in whose affections the College could not easily be supplanted. We believe in the old Mercersburg doctrine of historical development, and do not doubt the revelations of the future. Thankful for the blessings of the era that is ended we gird up our loins to enter upon the one which is at hand, trusting that we shall be led to further manifestations of the love and mercy of the Lord; "for He is able to do it, being Almighty God, and willing, being a faithful Father."

THE END.

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In the preparation of this bibliography we have not aimed at completeness. At first it was proposed to include the publications of professors and alumni in so far as they had come to our knowledge; but it soon became evident that in this way the work would be extended beyond our limits. As it now stands it includes specimens of the work of members of the Faculty, addresses delivered on public occasions, and a few books and pamphlets containing historical information. Except in a few instances, articles in periodicals have necessarily been omitted.

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